Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

75¢

Judiciary holds 4th Annual Mock Trial Academy. PAGE 8

I Love Saipan sues 4 alleged prolific shoplifters. PAGE 9

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 247

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2017

www.saipantribune.com

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his staff joined members of the Marianas business community for a meeting with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in Washington, D.C. on Monday. All agreed that the Trump administration decision to cut the number of CW permits this year to 9,998 was not what they wanted. Looking ahead, Sablan asked the governor to use his influence with the President to roll back a further cut to 4,999, already announced for next October. "In Congress, we are making good progress on consensus legislation that will ensure the Marianas economy has the labor it needs," Sablan told the group. "But the Trump administration decision to cut to 4,999 permits in October cuts in half the time we have to act and makes it even more difficult to get a long-term solution into law. Short-term, the decision is also very bad for our economy."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMBAC, Kilili at loggerheads

By BEA CABRERA
Reporter
BEA_CABRERA@SAIPANTRIBUNE.COM

A delegation of business representatives from Saipan are expressing disappointment over what they say is Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) unwillingness to support their efforts to have the foreign worker program extended beyond 2019.

See NMBAC on Page 4

AS ALLIES CONTINUE WAR GAMES

N. Korea says war is inevitable

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea says a nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula has become a matter of when, not if, as it continued to lash out at a massive joint military exercise between the United States and South Korea involving hundreds of advanced warplanes.

See N. KOREA on Page 4

7 Chinese workers protest anew

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Six of seven Chinese workers held a protest again yesterday to demand payment after being notified that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC would no longer negotiate or provide them with humanitarian assistance.

Six of seven workers protested yesterday in front of the casino resort in Garapan following a notice of eviction from Metro Time (CNMI) LLC, the owner of the building where they are staying, as well as a notice from IPI lawyer Sean Frink in late November 2017

See PROTEST on Page 4

Four of six protesters hold up a banner yesterday demanding that they be paid the wages allegedly owed them.

ERWIN ENCINARES

INSIDE

LOCAL
One of the first participants of the Drug Offender Re-entry program graduates.

PAGE 2

NATION
A would-be suicide bomber attacks in the heart of the New York City subway system.

PAGE 14

FOCUS
The use of rape by Myanmar's armed forces has been sweeping and methodical.

PAGE 17

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

The first D.O.R.E program graduate, Bob Yamagishi, in green robe, receives his certification of completion after his graduation ceremony at the federal court yesterday. KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

DORE program has its first graduate

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the first participants of the Commonwealth Drug Offender Re-entry program graduated yesterday at the U.S. District Court of the NMI.

Bob Hajime Deleon Guerrero Yamagishi, a former U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer, completed all the requirements needed to finish the program and was honored with a graduation ceremony yesterday.

That makes Yamagishi the first of the six who went into the program in 2016 to graduate. As part of the requirements, participants must remain sober for at least six months, remain compliant with the program's rules, pay off all monetary obligations to the court, and test negative for several drug tests.

The program was started by the district court in January 2016.

District court Chief Judge Ramona Manglona said the road may have been hard for Yamagishi but she is proud of him for trudging forward with the program and remaining sober for eight months.

Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy congratulated Yamagishi for completing all the requirements for graduation and she assured him that the DORE program and its team members would always be there to help get him.

Yamagishi said it feels great to be sober and to finally be drug-free. "I volunteered in this program a couple of years ago because I felt I needed help with my addiction with meth."

Yamagishi was a methamphetamine user for a couple of years before entering the DORE program and he said he volunteered to enter because he knows the struggles of addiction.

"I understand the problem with meth on our islands so I volunteered in this (DORE program) because I wanted to get help," he added.

Yamagishi said the choice to get help for methamphetamine addiction lies with the addict, and if they do not want to become drug-free, forcing them into the program will not help them.

"They can't just be forced by the courts or by the law. You have got to want help and this is the only way," he added.

Yamagishi said the cause of drug addiction is not the same for each person but, for those who searched for help and entered the program, they will need to persevere and push themselves.

"It's all different in what we have to go through. …It's hard and it's all different for each of us but, whatever is working for you, by all means continue," he said.

According to Yamagishi, his inspiration was the hope he received from the support of his family, friends, and the DORE program team.

"It's the things that they did for me that showed me that I mattered, regardless of what I had done wrong in the past. They gave me the hope I needed to fix myself," he said.

After Yamagishi's release from the program yesterday, four individuals were left and are also nearing their graduation.

Yamagishi was also released from the DORE program 12 months earlier from his original 24-month sentence, for compliance and completing the program's requirements.

AMIM encourages Guam to share pot stats

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang has introduced a resolution that encourages Guam to exchange information with the CNMI on the recreational and medicinal use of marijuana to assist in the ongoing debate.

Guam legalized medicinal marijuana use in 2014. The CNMI is currently thinking of doing the same here.

Apatang introduced the resolution at the 24th general assembly of the Association of Mariana Island Mayors, requesting Guam Gov. Edward Calvo and CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to share information on marijuana use.

Apatang said the CNMI government should at least obtain Guam's numbers on marijuana use. "We want some data on how it affects Guam and how they go about these things," he said.

AMIM unanimously adopted the resolution on Nov. 30 and it has been submitted to both Torres and Calvo.

The resolution encourages Calvo and Torres to share information on establishing an agency or department that is responsible for monitoring, controlling, enforcing, and administering marijuana laws and regulations.

Sexual assault, domestic violence workshop ongoing

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

When someone is sexually assaulted and report it, the first thing responders usually do is address the victim's medical needs and then conduct a forensic examination.

To that end, the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. have partnered to offer training for cases of sexual assault and using forensic examination.

"We are training people to help serve victims and survivors of sexual assault by attending to the medical needs and performing the forensic component of the case," said Maisie B. Tenorio, coalition executive director.

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Training is being held at the SandCastle of the Hyatt Regency Saipan, from Dec. 11 to 15.

"When someone is sexually assaulted, whether as a child, adolescent or as an adult, and report it to law enforcement or the Division of Youth Services, they usually offer the forensic exam," Tenorio said.

The medical and forensic examinations are critical components, she added.

"The victims are offered a medical examination for a number of reasons. First, to make sure that the victim or survivor doesn't have any immediate medical needs. Two, if there is injury and victim needs medication, we can treat it properly such as give them antibiotics as an example.

"As for the forensic component of the examination, the providers—either a nurse or a doctor—address the health needs and then they will also collect evidence. So that in the event the victim chooses to pursue the case further or the [Attorney General's] office decides to prosecute, then there is evidence they can use for trial," she added.

According to Tenorio, the last SAFE training on Saipan was in 2011.

"Nurses and doctors come and go…so we needed to just kind of update everyone by bringing everyone back and… retrain people on how to do the sexual assault forensic exam," she said.

"Doctors and nurses have been conducting these exams. This training will help them do it in a comprehensive way so that victims will get the best service," she added.

The guest speaker was Dr. Linda E. Ledray, founder and director of the Minneapolis, Minnesota-based Sexual Assault Resource Service, one of the first sexual assault nurse examiner programs, which she developed in 1977.

Ledray, who is a member of the International Association of Forensic Nurses, last held the training in the CNMI in 2011.

"She's a certified national trainer and she has been here before and we have her back again, which is very good because she knows our situation," Tenorio said.

"It was with her help that we developed the first program at the [Commonwealth Health Center] in 2011. She did the training…so that when a victim is brought or comes to the hospital, we are ready to take care of their healthcare needs and address the evidence collection," Tenorio added.

CHC doctors, nurses, social workers, mental health counselors, health providers, law enforcement officers, and advocates from the Department of Public Safety, Division of Youth Services and Child Protection Unit, and Karidat Social Services attended the seminar.

"Most victims never report, so we don't know how many cases are actually out there. All we know are the ones that are reported. That's why we plan to do this every few years, so long as the nurses and doctors at CHC that have been trained stay because this helps us keep the program continuously running and implemented," Tenorio added.

She said the coalition has been doing public education and awareness over the years and will continue to do so.

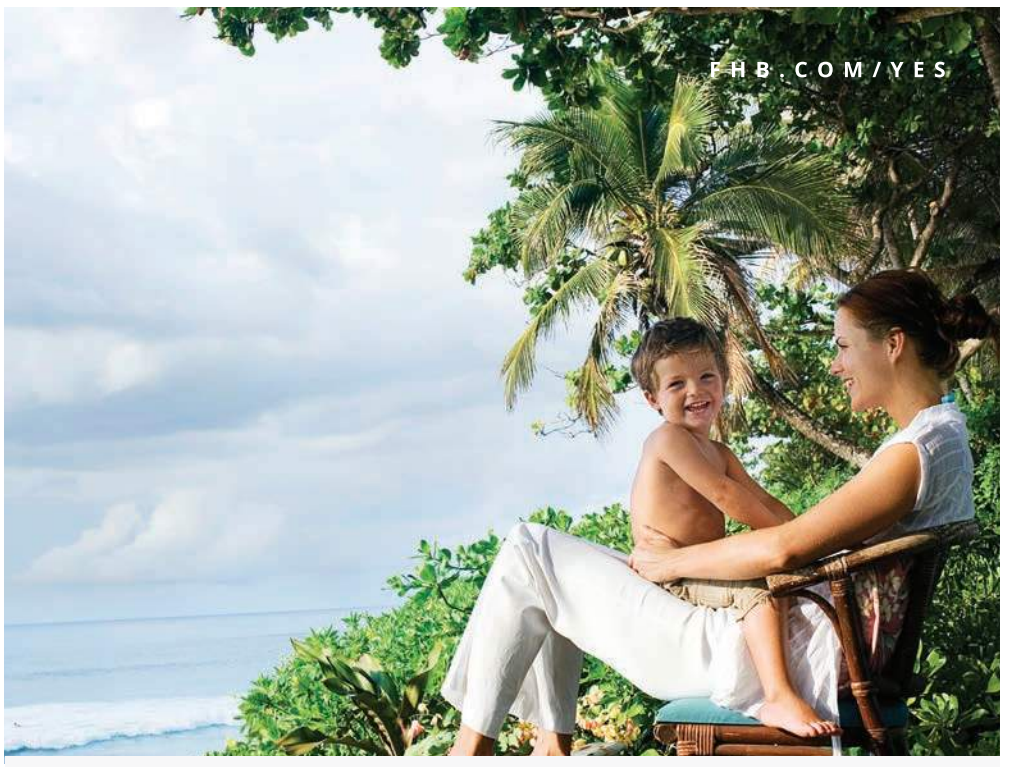
"We go to the schools, different agencies, and even businesses like the hotels to talk about sexual harassment or sexual assault. We are open for people to ask us if they want us to come to their community or business to talk about sexual harassment or sexual assault as we can do a presentation based on your needs," she said.

"We are actively planning for April 2018 as that month is Sexual Assault Awareness Month where the public can know more about sexual assault," she added.

Hai Lun Professional Massage
GARAPAN
$25 90 MINUTES
(Body massage plus FREE foot massage, manicure, pedicure or facial)
Call 788-1223

ARMATECH

Elevator Services and Maintenance
Tel: (670) 234-8895 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895



Christmas time is season for giving, and Saipan Vegas, the best gaming club in Saipan, is proud to announce great Christmas Player Promotions.
Fabulous
SAIPAN VEGAS
Saipan Vegas, player mystery Christmas Stocking Draw.
Every day for the month of December with over $15,000 in Cash and free play promo tickets including two $5,000 cash prizes, to be won by lucky Vegas Players.
Just pick a stocking and you could be a big winner! (See Venue for details)
AND
Our top level jackpots is being increased
from $10,000 to $15,000 for the month of December!
Come in today for some fun and the chance for a big cash prize!
Good Luck and Merry Christmas from Saipan Vegas!
Location: Middle Road (next to McDonald's) • 24 hours a day • 7 days a week

☑ Weekend. Not workend.

Run your business and leave payroll to the experts.

PAYROLL PLUS[1]
+ Offer your employees direct deposit
+ Payroll tax filling services
+ Local customer service team
+ Comprehensive reports

SPECIAL OFFER
50% off setup fees and 15% off processing fees[2] when you sign up by 12/31/17.

For a free consultation and estimate, ask for a Business Banker.

First Hawaiian Bank.
IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan Laulau • Tel: (670) 234-6559

Member FDIC

1 Payroll services are provided by bank processing partners. Offer available to a new payroll customer to the payroll processor, and excludes those with existing payroll services. Must have or sign up for a First Hawaiian Bank business checking account.
2 Promotional period is 11/1/2017 to 12/31/2017. The offer consists of a one-time 50% discount of the payroll processor setup fee and a monthly 15% discount on payroll partner processing fees. Other fees may apply, including, but not limited to, any additional services or fees charged by the payroll processor. We reserve the right to change this program without notice. Cannot be combined with any other offers.

Over 70 remembered in candle-lighting ceremony

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan held its sixth Candle Lighting Remembrance Program last Sunday, Dec. 10, as part of The Compassionate Friends' 21st Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting Service.

Approximately 100 candles were lit in remembrance of those who were "gone too soon." Over 70 children and siblings were honored with a candle and gentle memories by their loved ones.

The group thanks everyone who planned, donated to, attended, supported or participated, specifically the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Parks & Recreation; *Marianas Variety*; *Saipan Tribune*; KKMP; Monica Usi and the honor society of Mount Carmel School; Lorna Arcega; and Jim Arenovski.

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan is a non-profit self-help organization that offers friendship, understanding and support to family members who have experienced the death of a son, daughter, brother, sister, or grandchild, and helps others better assist grieving families. Its monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month, at 6pm in the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. conference room on Middle Road in Gualo Rai. Contact Jill Derickson at 989-9821, Maggie George at 483-6825, Donna Krum at 783-1900, or email TCFSaipan@gmail.com if you are interested in further information. ***(PR)***

Sobriety checkpoints on Saipan, Rota

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on Saipan on the following dates and times:

■ Dec. 15: The first checkpoint will be along Chalan Pale Arnold Rd., from Garapan to Chalan Lau Lau, from 6pm to 8pm. The second checkpoint will be along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero in San Jose to Dandan, from 9pm to 11pm.

■ Dec. 16: The first checkpoint will be along Chalan Monsignor Martinez Rd., from Koblerville to As Lito, from 6pm to 8:30pm. The second checkpoint will be along Beach Road, from Garapan to Chalan Piao, from 9pm to 11pm.

■ Dec. 23: The first checkpoint will be along Chalan Pale Arnold Road, from Garapan to Gualo Rai, from 5pm to 7pm. The second checkpoint will be along Beach Road, from Garapan to Chalan Piao, from 8pm to 10pm.

These activities are part of the Department of Public Safety's Drunk, Drugged, Distracted, Drowsy Prevention Month.

On Rota, the sobriety checkpoints will be held on the following dates and times:

■ Dec. 21: The first setup will be located on San Francisco Highway along Uyulan area, from 6pm to 7:15pm. The second setup will be located on San Francisco Highway along Tatachog Area, from 9pm to 10:15pm.

■ Dec. 23: The first setup will be located on San Francisco Highway along Pinatang Park, from 6:15pm to 7:30pm. The second setup will be located on San Francisco Highway along Sonton Area, from 9:15pm to 10:30pm.

■ Dec. 25: The first setup will be located on San Francisco Highway along Guata Beach Park, from 6:30pm to 7:45pm. The second setup will be located on San Francisco Highway along Igua Area, from 9:30pm to 10:45pm.

■ Jan. 1, 2018: The first setup will be located on San Francisco Highway along Sinapalo Ill Park, from 6pm to 7:15pm. The second setup will be located on San Francisco Highway along Pinatang Park, from 9pm to 10:15pm.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes).

In addition, highway patrol and patrol officers will be conducting highway criminal

interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(DPS)***

BEH closes Nipa Hut in Garapan

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental Health suspended the Nipa Hut restaurant in Garapan after a sanitary inspection in November.

In an earlier interview, BEH director John M. Tagabuel explained that establishments that receive a Grade C rating are suspended but will be able to operate again once they correct the problems cited.

"Even with a Grade C rating, establishments still have an opportunity to resume operations after they identify discrepancies and are able to implement corrective actions that will satisfy BEH standards," Tagabuel said.

Retail, eating, and drinking establishments that garner a score between 90 and100 are given a Grade A rating.

At the last inspection, these include the Green Meadow Daycare (Gualo Rai), Pure Love Daycare (Gualo Rai), Best Market (Koblerville), Vi-Lyn's BBQ Stands (Garapan), Mariana Resorts' Gekka Teppanyaki Bar, main kitchen, Le Stella, 12th Night, gift shop, Pudu King Café, Ocean Retail, and employee's cafeteria (Marpi), Pearl River wholesale and packing (Chalan Laulau), Smart Start Nurturing Center (Garapan), Monster Pizza (Garapan), I Shop Saipan (Garapan), Good Day Restaurant (Susupe), LF Restaurant (Chalan Kanoa), Korean Community School (Afetna), Susan's BBQ stand (San Vicente), San Jose Mart Refilling Station (San Jose), San Roque market & Butcher (San Roque), Bostonian Bakery (Chalan Laulau), Gusto Product (Fina Sisu), Sura (Garapan), Chinen Ice Candy Retail and Manufacture (Garapan), Pier Restaurant (Garapan), WJC Fish Mart (San Vicente), 9 Eleven Restobar (San Jose), CHCC cafeteria (Navy Hill), Saipan Panda Store (Susupe and Garapan), Cool Market (Fina Sisu), Hua Noni Soap & Coconut Product Wholesale (Garapan), Ajisen Ramen (Garapan), Himawari Bakery and Retail, Angel Snack Bar (San Jose), and Pajukol Restaurant (San Antonio)

Grade B rating is given to establishments garnering a score between 80 and 89. These are Guangdong cafeteria (As Lito), San Jose Mart (San Jose), Chow Time (Garapan), and 999 Market (Chalan Piao)

BEH conducts inspections twice a year—one for renewal and one unannounced.

N. KOREA

From Page 1

In comments attributed to an unnamed Foreign Ministry spokesman, North Korea also claimed high-ranked U.S. officials, including CIA Director Mike Pompeo, have further confirmed American intent for war with a series of "bellicose remarks."

Pompeo said Saturday that U.S. intelligence agencies believe North Korean leader Kim Jong Un doesn't have a good idea about how tenuous his situation is domestically and internationally. The North's spokesman said Pompeo provoked the country by "impudently criticizing our supreme leadership which is the heart of our people."

"We do not wish for a war but shall not hide from it, and should the U.S. miscalculate our patience and light the fuse for a nuclear war, we will surely make the U.S. dearly pay the consequences with our mighty nuclear force which we have consistently strengthened," the spokesman said.

The comments were carried by the official Korean Central News Agency late Wednesday, hours after the United States flew a B-1B supersonic bomber over South Korea as part of a massive combined aerial exercise involving hundreds of warplanes. North Korean propaganda is often filled with extreme claims and threats, and the spokesman's comments were consistent with the tone of previous statements condemning Washington and Seoul.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the Guam-based bomber simulated land strikes at a military field near South Korea's eastern coast during a drill with U.S. and South Korean fighter jets.

"Through the drill, the South Korean and U.S. air forces displayed the allies' strong intent and ability to punish North Korea when threatened by nuclear weapons and missiles," the South Korean military said in a statement.

B-1Bs flyovers have become an increasingly familiar show of force to North Korea, which after three intercontinental ballistic missile tests has clearly moved closer toward building a nuclear arsenal that could viably target the U.S. mainland.

The five-day drills that began Monday involve more than 200 aircraft, including six U.S. F-22 and 18 F-35 stealth fighters.

North Korea hates such displays of American military might at close range and typically uses strong language to condemn them as invasion rehearsals. It has been particularly sensitive about B-1B bombers, describing them as "nuclear strategic" although the planes were switched to conventional weaponry in the mid-1990s.

PROTEST

From Page 1

that IPI is ceasing further negotiations and humanitarian support for the workers.

The workers, who came in as tourists, were employees of MCC International, but IPI has been paying for their food and housing since MCC International left the CNMI after the illegal employment came to light.

Metro Time's eviction notice stated that the workers would be evicted 30 days after Nov. 20, 2017.

The remaining workers are Gong Ben Ji, Li Qiang, Cui Lian, Wu Da Wei, Xu Long Cai, Guo Qing Hui, and Fang Yu Guo. Each worker has worked for MCC International, IPI's main contractor, after entering the CNMI under the CNMI-Guam visa waiver program.

According to the CNMI Department of Labor, each worker is owed between $1,125 to a maximum of $5,129. IPI, at the recommendation of CNMI DOL, reportedly offered to give those amounts to the workers but each one has refused, saying they should be paid more.

Frink's letter stated that, come Nov. 27, 2017, IPI would no longer negotiate with the workers. He said the offer would be "forever withdrawn" if the workers did not accept the offers by 3pm that day.

One of seven workers, Li Qiang, remains firm in his demand for more money.

"We need the money. We will wait until we get paid," said Li through a translator.

When asked what he plans to do once he is evicted, he replied, "I don't know yet."

Li wants $18,000 in compensation as his colleagues have received that amount before leaving the CNMI. The lowest he would consider is $17,000.

Frink, on behalf of IPI, said in his letter that despite the lack of legal responsibility over the workers, IPI has provided them with food and shelter, as well as offered to pay what is owed them based on CNMI DOL recommendations and investigations and pay for their repatriation to China.

"…Your demands for payment beyond what CNMI DOL has determined you are owed before you will agree to return to China has caused IPI to determine that, effective immediately, it will no longer pay to house and feed you," Frink wrote, adding that the additional amounts the remaining workers are demanding are "unspecified and/or legally or factually unsupportable."

NMBAC

From Page 1

In a statement, the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. also expressed surprise at this development, having already discussed the subject with Sablan in August 2017.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Sablan last night via email.

The law that created the CNMI foreign worker program, also called the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program or CW program, would phase out the program in 2019.

The NMBAC statement yesterday expressed frustration over what the membership described as Sablan's "unwillingness" to embrace a proposal "that enjoys widespread support in the Commonwealth."

The group said that much like the H.R. 33, "which directly led to the recent drastic reduction in the CW visa permits…Sablan appears to prefer working with other members of Congress without consulting with the CNMI government or the business community."

"Despite our repeated requests, Delegate Sablan refused to share any specifics of the legislative solution he has been pursuing," states the press release.

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Gloria Cavanagh, who is also an NMBAC board member and is in Washington, D.C. with the rest of the NMBAC, was displeased with Sablan's actions.

"We are very disappointed by the treatment of our delegate today. We came to meet him to tell him that we want to put aside politics and work for the economy of the CNMI," she said.

"However, we will not let this deter us from working to get our CNMI economy what is needed to continue to thrive," she added.

NMBAC board members are in Washington, D.C. with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to meet with members of the U.S. Congress and federal agencies to stress the detrimental impact of phasing out the CW program at a time when the CNMI economy is on an upswing and the importance of securing visa-free tourism in the Commonwealth.

NMBA also intends to advocate for legislation that will bring long-term stability to the CNMI economy. The proposal to amend the law is supported by the CNMI Legislature as well as by the mayors of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Despite this, NMBAC chair Alex Sablan shares Cavanagh's positive outlook. "The NMBAC board will continue meeting agendas led by Gov. Torres over the next three days in Washington, D.C."

"We are to meet and discuss the detrimental impact related to the recent reduction of 3,000 CW-1 visas for fiscal year 2018, [the] unintended consequences of H.R. 339, now Public Law 115-53, and our proposed legislative provisional changes that will provide stability to grow the economy and continued opportunities for the CNMI's future," he added.

Committee starts review of Torres' recommendations

TORRES

DEMAPAN

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Ways and Means Committee is starting its review of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' recommendations for the allocation of the Saipan casino gross revenue tax collection.

With a total of over $38.5 million up for appropriation, only $16.55 million would be appropriated due to a $22-million earmark provision in recently enacted Public Law 20-10.

The $22 million would be held in a special account to pay for this year's retiree pension bonuses and 25 percent of pensions that were withheld from government retirees.

Of the $16.55 million that is up for allocation, Torres recommends that $2 million of that go to the Public School System.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* that Torres' communication is merely a recommendation of how the money should be divided and his committee need not follow Torres' recommendations word for word.

"We owe PSS some $9 million from…previous appropriations we've enacted, so I'd like to see that we give that particular amount to PSS and then work on an additional $3 million to help support some of the unfunded obligations they are requesting for," said Demapan.

Previous appropriations from the House—House Bill 20-108 that addressed salaries owed government employees that got stuck at Step 12; House Bill 20-103 that addressed the land compensation debts of the CNMI government; and House Bill 20-116 that addressed the balances the CNMI government owed the settlement fund for fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2015—appropriated over $36.6 million altogether.

The CNMI Constitution provides that PSS is entitled to 25 percent of "general revenues," which include all appropriations allocated by the House of Representatives.

A quarter of $36.6 million is a little over $9 million—the amount Demapan infers is owed PSS.

"At this time, I'm working on reconfiguring the proposed distribution to see how best we can accommodate PSS' request in the amount of $12 million," said Demapan.

Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU QUALITY

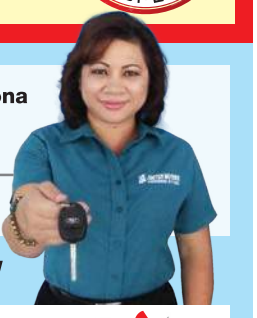
PRE-OWNED CARS

2012 Nissan Xterra S
Stk# CC527339
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 41328
Color: Brilliant Silver
$18,995

2015 Nissan QUEST SV
Stk# F9133878
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 8695
Color: Brilliant Silver
$22,995

JOETEN CUSTOMER CHECKLIST

FREE Oil Changes for a Year
FREE 24 Hour Roadside assistance
FREE 24 Hour Basic Towing service
FREE Shuttle Rides
48 HOUR VEHICLE EXCHANGE



Julie Manglona
Sales Consultant
Visit or call
234-5562

Check out our full used car listing at www.joetenmotorssaipan.com or visit us today

2012 KIA SEDONA LX
Stk# C6507846
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter DOHC
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 45060
Color: GRAY
$11,995

2015 KIA RIO LX
Stk# F6526166
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.6 L
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 24050
Color: SILVER
$12,295

2016 KIA FORTE LX
Stk# G5584499
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.8 L
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 28395
Color: SILVER
$12,995

2015 KIA SOUL LX
Stk# F7225726
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.6 L
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 26736
Color: BLUE
$13,695
WILL NEED NEW TIRES

2013 FORD ESCAPE
Stk# DUC75188
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 2.5 Liter Ti-VCT
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 24333
Color: BLUE
$14,495

2014 Honda Civic LX
Stk# EE065539
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.8 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 40822
Color: White
$14,495

2015 Kia Forte EX
Stk# F5398749
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 2.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 3865
Color: Metal Stream
$15,895

2013 NISSAN MAXIMA SV
Stk# DC843965
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 LITER
Transmission: Automatic CVT
Est. Mileage: 35550
Color: BLACK
$18,995

2016 Kia Sportage LX
Stk# G7855268
Drivetrain: AWD
Engine: 2.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 6677
Color: Silver
$19,795

2014 Ford Escape SE
Stk#EUB67717
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.6 Liter Ecoboost
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 12644
Color: Ruby Red
$19,995

2015 NISSAN QUEST S
Stk# F9126212
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 17320
Color: White
$20,995

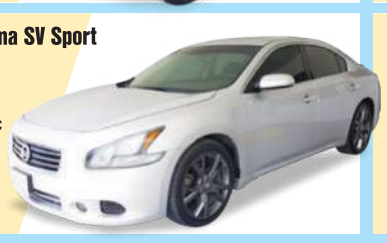
2015 Nissan ALTIMA S
Stk# FC469947
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 2.5 L
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 26
Color: WHITE
$20,995

2016 Kia Sportage EX
Stk# G7840712
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 2.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 19778
Color: Black
$21,795

2017 Kia Sportage LX
Stk# H71962822
Drivetrain: AWD
Engine: 2.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 3787
Color: Clear White
$22,995

2015 Nissan Pathfinder S
Stk# FC610104
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 29560
Color: Glacier White
$24,495

2013 Nissan Maxima SV Sport
Stk# DC816012
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 20568
Color: Brilliant Silver
$24,995



2015 NISSAN FRONTIER SV
Stock#: Fn700804
Drivetrain: 4wd
Engine: 4. 0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Mileage: 25000
Color: Gun Metallic
$26,995

2016 Ford F150 Super Crew Cab XL
Stk#GKD66328
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 5.0 Liter V8
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 8477
Color: Oxford White
$42,995

Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON
TEL. (670) 234-5562

See dealer for details regarding the Joeten customer checklist.
Some conditions apply.

Like us on Facebook

Civil Service Commission backs 3 proposed bills

The Civil Service Commission held a special meeting last Dec. 7 to review three bills recently proposed by the Legislature, with commission chair Herman R. Deleon Guerrero saying the commission "feels strongly" it should be involved in the review of all bills that will affect government employees.

The three bills were Senate bills 20-52 and 20-64 and House Bill 20-143.

S.B. 20-52 seeks to improve medical referral services by making all of the medical referral's and liaison offices' employment positions civil service positions and subject to the Civil Service Act.

S.B. 20-64 proposes a state directory of new hires.

H.B. 20-143 seeks to amend the public employment definition of the term "immediate family member."

Deleon Guerrero said that Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) asked for the commission's comments on these bills.

"The commission, after review and discussion, supports all three bills, with some recommended amendments," said commission vice chair Felicitas "Tee" Abraham. "Each of the three bills provides an action that benefits the [commission] and its employees.

"Senate Bill 20-52 will return employees of the Medical Referral and Hawaii and Guam Liaison Offices to the Civil Service System to increase stability and performance.

"Senate Bill 20-64 will establish a listing of employees that will allow a new Child Support Enforcement Office better information to ensure that parents live up to their responsibilities to their children.

"House Bill 20-143 redefines the term 'immediate family member' to include common-law spouses to allow the use of earned sick leave to care for a sick common-law spouse.

"All three laws benefit government employees and should be enacted," said Abraham.

"It's challenging and sometimes difficult but an important aspect of the commission's reason for being," commissioner Charles Calvo (Saipan) said. "It's important to look at each new bill to see what effect it will have on government employees."

"Our responsibility as appointed members of the Civil Service Commission is to work together for the best interests of the civil service employees and to make sure that all employee-related laws and policies are fair, meaningful, and consistent to the principles of a Civil Service merit system," said commissioner Catalina Tebit (Saipan).

Other members of the commission are Arsene M. Borja (Tinian), and Valerie Q. Apatang (Rota).

One commissioner position for Saipan remains to be appointed by the governor. ***(PR)***

No settlement reached between IPI, ex-employee

Efforts to reach a settlement between Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and a former employee have failed.

The settlement conference that was held last Dec. 8 ended with no settlement reached in the complaint filed by Dennis Campbell against IPI.

Campbell filed the complaint in federal court last August. He is suing Imperial Pacific for alleged violations of the American with Disabilities Act.

Attorneys Jeanne Rayphand and Shelli Neal represented Campbell at the settlement conference; attorney Kelley Butcher represented IPI.

Campbell is suing IPI because it allegedly discriminated against him by failing to provide him reasonable accommodation and failed to engage in a process required by ADA that resulted in his termination. Cambell is seeking back pay, interest, damages, attorney fees, and court costs.

Campbell was a casino table dealer, table games administrator, and later a table game supervisor. In April 2016, Rayphand said that Campbell told his supervisor that he was having trouble standing and walking for an extended period of time, but the casino management allegedly informed him that his best course of action would be the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Rayphand said that Campbell asked the IPI human resources department for reasonable accommodation and was asked for a doctor's recommendation.

In June 3, 2016, Rayphand said Campbell was forced to resign, effective June 17, 2016. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Water outage on Dec. 15 in Kagman

There will be a water service interruption on Dec. 15, 2017, in Kagman, from 9am to 1pm.

The purpose of the water outage is to repair a water leak located between JCT Market and the KG2 well and will take approximately four hours to complete. The outage will affect customers residing along the KG131 well/chlorine station from Kagman Road, Santa Soledad Church, up to the Kumoi booster station and residents near the Juvenile Detention Center to Laulau.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/COTA-18-IFB-004

CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA) ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Construction of the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility,** Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **December 6, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 28, 2017 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 12 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/COTA-18-IFB-004"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time January 18, 2018.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, January 18, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 18, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **January 29, 2018.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, February 1, 2018.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on January 18, 2018.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Three Hundred Sixty Five (365) calendar days for the Base Bid with an additional 35 calendar days for Bid Additive 1 and 30 calendar days for Bid Additive 2** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Five Hundred (US$500.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
Special Assistant for Public Transportation

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857
Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: **November 22, 2017** Closing Date: **December 22, 2017**

The Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission") needs immediate recruitment for the following positions:

	POSITION	DIVISION	SALARY RANGE	ANNOUNCEMENT NO.
1.	**FINANCIAL AUDITOR**	Audit	$37,000 - $42,000	CCC-2017-**A**
2.	**COMPLIANCE AGENT**	Compliance	$32,000 - $37,000	CCC-2017-**B**
3.	**DEPUTY MANAGER**	Enforcement & Investigations	$44,000 - $49,000	CCC-2017-**C**
4.	**INVESTIGATIVE ANALYST**	Enforcement & Investigations	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-2017-**D**
5.	**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER** – Procurement	Executive Office	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-2017-**E**
6.	**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**	Executive Office	$29,000 - $34,000	CCC-2017-**F**
7.	**PERMIT & LICENSING CLERK**	Permit & Licensing	$15,800 - $19,800	CCC-2017-**G**

- **Salary:** Actual salary level will depend on the applicant's education, experience, and other related qualifications.
- **Location:** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").
- **Benefits:** Basic CNMI government employment fringe benefits.
- **Exempted Positions:** These positions are exempted from the CNMI Civil Service system per P.L. 18-56 & P.L.19-24.

Requirements:

A. Completed CNMI Government **Application for Employment** (OPM-03) - Original
B. Resume with accompanying educational and professional credentials & documentations
C. Police Clearance (within the last 3 months)
D. Copy of your Driver's License or other form of **Valid Identification with photo**

Education and training claimed under items 24 (A) through (H) of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Office of Personnel Management **Application for Employment** must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is an equal employment opportunity employer. The CCC's EEO policy is to ensure that all employment decisions are made on a non-discriminatory basis, and without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or belief, or any other status protected by applicable national, federal, state or local law. Please be informed that prior to a job offer, you are required to undergo a pre-employment drug test pursuant to the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy, Part V.C. of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations. The Casino Commission may also require additional criminal background checks and investigations if deemed necessary.

Application Forms can be picked up at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). For information on the **POSITION DESCRIPTION** and other requirements, please contact the HR Officer, Ms. Juanette LG. Sablan at 233-1857/58 or at **info@cnmicasinocommission.com.** Interested persons should submit their completed Employment Application Forms along with supporting documents to the **Commonwealth Casino Commission's Office at Springs Plaza (Unit #13 & #14), Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.**

MEGADRAW
Jackpots!
Jackpot
$5
MILLION
THIS THURSDAY
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
18+ To Purchase
LOTTERY
Results will be published on Saipan Tribune every Friday
For results, visit www.nmsalottery.com
Tickets available here:
XO Supermarket, 99cent Supermarket, Twins Navy Hill, Sara Market, New Kagman Market, Lucky De Supermarket, Happy Market, Ming Yang Supermarket, Hanam Supermarket, Rising Supermarket, Friendly Mart or Twins Dan Dan

Judiciary holds 4th Annual Mock Trial Academy

The NMI Judiciary conducted the Judiciary Mock Trial Academy on Dec. 1 and 2 to prepare students for the 2018 CNMI High School Mock Trial Competition and National High School Mock Trial Championship. Over 80 students from nine high schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota gathered at the Guma' Hustisia for two days of intense lectures on various facets of mock trial rules and legal practices.

Lecturers included Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, magistrate judge Heather L. Kennedy, and law clerk Richard C. Miller from the U.S. District Court, as well as Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio, assistant U.S. Attorney Garth R. Backe, and Supreme Court law clerk Benjamin C. Byers. The lectures focused on evidentiary rules such as impeachment, hearsay, relevance, and introduction of exhibits, as well as witness portrayal and effective trial presentation.

The mock trial competition will be held on Feb. 15– to 16, 2018, at the Guma' Hustisia. Each team will have witnesses and attorneys, presenting the prosecution and defense sides of *United States v. Lou Perez*, a fictitious case about a military veteran charged with assault on a federal officer. Competitors will be judged based on their knowledge of the evidence and ability to present a logical and persuasive case.

The program is designed to introduce students to the legal system by providing a challenging, academic competition. Members of the bench and attorneys serve as presiding judges, jurors, and attorney coaches. "Thanks to the volunteer efforts of our legal community, this program has been successful for the past 20 years," said Deanna M. Ogo, mock trial coordinator.

The winning team will travel to the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Reno, Nevada on May 10 to 12, 2018, to compete with over 40 teams from across the nation. The CNMI High School Mock Trial Program is sponsored by the NMI Judiciary, CNMI Bar Association, and CNMI Public School System. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Judiciary Mock Trial Academy students with Associate Justice John A. Manglona, law clerk Benjamin C. Byers, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, law clerk Nina Hart, law clerk Richard C. Miller, CNMI Bar executive director Eulalia V. Arriola, and mock trial coordinator Deanna M. Ogo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Judiciary Mock Trial Academy students pose for a picture during a break between lectures.

World-class training for robotics students in Yap

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yap Seventh-Day Adventist students and teachers take part in the Yap Robo League training.

COLONIA, Yap—Island students have been receiving high tech training in the design and construction of robots as the five high schools of the Yap Robo League work toward their goal of a statewide robotics competition next spring.

Amelia Weiss, Habele's director of STEM Programs, first met with participating school leaders in Yap in early December. A series of workshops, site visits, and peer-to-peer trainings followed. Administrators, teachers, and select students from Yap High School, Outer Islands High School, Yap Catholic High School, Yap SDA School, and Faith Christian Academy participated throughout.

In addition to the five participating high schools, staff from the Yap State Public Service Corp. and Pacific Missionary Aviation joined each of the training sessions. These local industry partners are also building robots in preparation for the all Yap State "Robo Day" scheduled for May 22, 2018.

"It's clear the students and teachers are highly motivated," said Weiss between meetings. "They have the drive, the equipment is coming in, and now we are providing the technical support to help them meet their goals."

Stateside, students and teachers at South River High School in Edgewater, Maryland learned about their peers in Yap. The Power Hawks Robotics Club hosted Habele's president, Scott Leis, who spoke to the team about the Federated States of Micronesia, Yap State, Micronesian culture and the Compacts of Free Association, which formally link the Freely Associated States to the U.S. Leis also answered questions from students about how they could support the students at their partner school, Yap Public High School.

"The students at South River High School were eager to learn all about the Western Pacific," said Leis. "Few realized the geographical realities of life on a remote archipelago or that there is a long-standing, formal relationship between the FSM and [the] U.S."

On the U.S. West Coast, students of the Eagle Engineering Robotics Club at Chaminade College Preparatory High School packed a dozen boxes of donated robotics parts. These will be sent to Yap Catholic High School, which will distribute the equipment to the five participating schools across Yap. This donation compliments scores of supplies that Habele has already sent this year, thanks to a technical assistance program grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

"We are thrilled to be helping our peers in the Pacific," said coach Tommy Smeltzer of Eagle Engineering. "Since 2011, we've been proud to support the teams of the Yap Robo League through donations and technical support, and it is especially exciting to see the league continue to grow and thrive." ***(PR)***

DUE TO GOVT'S ALLEGED FAILURE TO PROSECUTE:

I Love Saipan sues 4 alleged prolific shoplifters

Blaming the government's alleged failure to prosecute, the owner of I Love Saipan is suing four who are reportedly prolific shoplifters and have been stealing items and harassing store employees.

AC Pacific LLC, which does business as Star Sands Plaza and is more popularly known as I Love Saipan, is asking the Superior Court to issue a temporary restraining order and an injunctive relief to bar Aurelio Ray, Jerry Ramon, Abigail Duenas, and Donavin Chargualaf from entering its stores on Saipan.

AC Pacific, through counsel Mark A. Scoggins, asked the court to prevent Ray, Ramon, Duenas, and Chargualaf from coming within 100 feet of I Love Saipan or any of AC Pacific's stores.

AC Pacific asked the court to restrain the four from harassing its employees or customers and wants the TRO converted to a permanent injunction.

The company also wants the four held liable to pay AC Pacific damages for their harm to the company's business.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set a status conference hearing on Dec. 21, 2017.

According to Scoggins, on multiple occasions over the last year, the four have entered AC Pacific stores, taken items, and left the premises without paying.

Scoggins said AC Pacific has notified the Department of Public Safety after each incident and reported the thefts and, each time, AC Pacific has been given "blue cards" and police report numbers and the names of the defendants, but none of them has ever been prosecuted.

Scoggins said that despite the repeated notification of law enforcement, the four continue shoplifting from the stores. They would brazenly enter AC Pacific stores to steal and, when confronted, run out, placing employees and customers at risk of harm of injury.

"Perhaps due to the fact that they have never been prosecuted, defendants have recently begun taunting and harassing AC Pacific staff, and generally behave as if they can act with impunity at AC Pacific facilities," Scoggins said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

RCUOG meeting set Friday

The regular meeting of the Research Corporation of the University of Guam will be held Friday, Dec. 15, 2017, at 2:30pm in the president's conference room, executive offices, on the second floor of the Jesus S. and Eugenia A. Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building. RCUOG complies with Guam Public Law 24-109 with reference to the provisions and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. For assistance contact Joseph Gumataotao, UOG EEO Office, Room 106, Iya Hami, at 735-2244 or (TTY) 735-2243. ***(PR)***

Landfill, transfer station closed on Sat.

On Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017, both the Lower Base transfer station and the Marpi landfill waste disposal facilities will be closed at 3pm in preparation for the Department of Public Works' annual Christmas party. ***(PR)***

Water service interruption on Saipan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption today, Dec. 13, from 8am to 5pm, in several areas on Saipan to repair a leak in a 6-inch transmission line. The water outage will affect Koblerville, San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, San Jose, Oleai, Chalan Piao, As Lito, and Fina Sisu areas. Customers in these areas should expect restoration of services soon thereafter. Repairs will be located on the corner of Guangdong Hardware in As Lito. ***(CUC)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Dec. 14

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker will be Salome A. Castro of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DPS/SOR-032(A)(B)
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 08, 2018 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE CLASS "F" MID-SIZE PICK-UP TRUCK WITH OFF ROAD PACKAGE (A) AND ONE MID-SIZE SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE (B) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-425 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

SECURITY SERVICES INVITATION FOR BIDS NMC IFB 18-001

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Security Services for the As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Wednesday, December 6th, 2017 between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bid Submissions are due no later than 10:00 A.M, January 08, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: May request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this Invitation For Bids (IFB), if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-038, Rev. 1

Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to perform mitigation of the CUC power distribution system through the replacement of 374 wood poles to concrete poles in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project entails the replacement of 103 units of 35-foot and 271 units of 40-foot wood poles to concrete poles and the assembly of electrical hardware. The work site is to take place across CUC's power grid.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the CUC and FEMA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **171 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-038, Rev. 1, Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 12, 2018** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). ***Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.***

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 29, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Jr. Electrical Engineer – via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-004

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS
(Revised December 13, 2017)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-18-004, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 26, 2018,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.*

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7).

Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders shall comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 10, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org; Joseph Crisostimo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostimo@cucgov.org; and Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division, Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 247

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Five years after Sandy Hook, has love won?

We've let them down.

Charlotte. Daniel. Rachel. Olivia. Josephine. Dawn. Dylan. Madeleine. Catherine. Chase. Jesse. Ana. James. Grace. Anne. Emilie. Jack. Noah. Caroline. Jessica. Avielle. Lauren. Mary. Victoria. Benjamin. Allison.

All 26 of them.

Five years ago, in those painful days after the massacre at Sandy Hook, we mourned with the moms and dads and wept alongside our own children for all we'd lost. Innocent lives. Innocence itself. We vowed to protect our children from the Adam Lanzas of this world. The legislature passed new gun laws.

Hearings were held on mental health care. The state poured millions into bolstering school security.

But, above all else, we repeated two words over and over as we tried to recover:

Love wins.

We said it over and over in the hope that we were right, as if by saying it enough times it might actually prove to be true. There were signs everywhere, in the gifts that poured into Sandy Hook, in the commitment to kindness that seemed to radiate from the small town in western Connecticut. And, most of all, in the brothers and sisters and moms and dads of the children slaughtered that day, who searched for ways to keep the darkness from taking over their days. Playgrounds sprang up all over the state. Scarlett Lewis wrote about the power of hope in healing. Annual awards for kindness were handed out to remember Charlotte Bacon.

In recent months, though, a different mood has taken root in our nation, a narrative of intolerance, anger and fear. There are many to blame for the current state of our national conversation, though the damage President Trump has done is immeasurable. Both as candidate and commander, he has played on fear and insecurity in a classic and cynical game of divide and conquer. Shame on him.

But shame on us, too. Are we blameless in all this, simply victims?

Not really.

The breakdown of civility at the top has filtered into our daily lives.

There is a lot of talking going on, but very little listening. We used to go on Facebook to check out our friends' children, but now we fill each other's feeds with invective and innuendo. Even our holiday gatherings have been turned into political minefields: "Careful what you say around grandpa; he voted for Trump, you know." We've become cynical, distrustful and wary. And maybe that's not entirely unreasonable. The violence and hate that's out there has become so heinous and ugly that cynicism and distrust might seem the only logical responses.

Logical, perhaps. But not the only possibility. Have we listened to those with whom we disagree or have we simply condemned? Have we tried to understand the anger and frustration so many Americans seem to be living with these days? Have we looked beyond the walls of distrust that we've built up over the last year to see if maybe there's someone out

See FIVE on Next Page

FACEBOOK'S APP FOR KIDS...
COULD RESULT IN MY DAUGHTER BEING GLUED TO HER PHONE.
I NEED TO TALK TO HER ABOUT THIS.
SO I'LL TEXT HER.
Las Vegas Sun
MIKE SMITH
DISTRIBUTED BY KFS/NAS 2017

Sandy Hook police chief: From grief, doing good

By MICHAEL KEHOE
The Hartford Courant

Michael Kehoe, since retired, was the Newtown police chief on Dec. 14, 2012, when the shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School occurred. He wrote this for the Hartford Courant.

Five years ago, on Dec. 14, 2012, I entered the Sandy Hook Elementary School and witnessed a scene of chaos and death that I had never imagined. The all-too-quaint, closely knit and pastoral community of Newtown was forever dramatically changed.

Unfortunately, I am frequently reminded of that day. Each new active-shooter incident brings back the memory of those 26 shocking deaths in Sandy Hook School. Of the 20 children killed, four were 7-year-olds and the rest were 6—all innocent and full of hopes and dreams. Six of the dead were brave and courageous educators trying to do whatever they could to quell the mayhem that began sometime after 9:30am.

My thoughts are always with the victims' families, who suffered the most on that day and the very painful days thereafter. The impact on the families who lost loved ones in a hail of bullets has always been my priority and will continue to be in my thoughts until the day I leave this earth.

Before the shootings, I always felt that schools, hospitals and houses of worship were the institutions most safe from the violence that permeates our communities. As we all know too well now, they are not secure places of peace and tranquility anymore. This has become the phenomenal work of the family members left behind. Their unyielding energy and poise comfort me and the many communities they reach with important messages of reducing gun violence, eliminating bullying, enhancing mental health services and common sense gun legislation.

The admirable determination of the victims' families to turn unfathomable tragedy into good must be honored.

The families' focus and messages inspire me and many others. These societal issues are complex, multifaceted and without simple solutions. The families' emphasis and outspokenness on these important questions are aimed at making the future for the next generation of elementary school children bright and positive.

We need to redirect energy and efforts to those areas that need specific and affirmative action, especially after experiencing a horrific event. Since Dec. 14, 2012, I have often thought I could be a voice for improvement, advancement and enhancement. I wondered what the future held for me and where I could make improvements to benefit others.

Mental wellness and health became my main focus and motivation, of course stimulated by those 26 families. This led to my collaboration with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and many talented professionals who have dealt with tragic events like Sandy Hook. We developed a guidebook, "Preparing for the Unimaginable," specifically for first responders should another tragedy befall their community. Unfortunately, vivid scenes of carnage, mayhem and grief have continued to plague our country since the Sandy Hook shootings. Orlando, Fla., Las Vegas and Sutherland Springs, Texas, are a few of the communities that have dealt with the heartache and pain of a mass casualty event like Newtown's.

Most police officers will not have to handle a traumatic event like the one I experienced. They will respond, however, to routine emergencies that by their nature are unforeseeable, potentially dangerous situations. Regardless of the circumstances, police, fire and emergency medical services must take immediate decisive action to mitigate loss of life, loss of property, injuries and immeasurable psychological damage.

Police responders answer many calls, which, cumulatively, over time will be the equivalent of or exceed just one tragic event. Their health and wellness are no less important. First-responder mental wellness is just starting to gain significant traction within the law enforcement community. As my profession started to closely evaluate the safety of those who keep others safe, a startling fact emerged. More police officers today have their lives ended at their own hand than from an assault on the job.

I knew this instinctively, as did many other police leaders. Here, the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association recognized the void and committed to placing as much emphasis on mental health as it does on bulletproof vests and other protective measures, equipment and policies to keep officers safe. It was the first police chiefs association in America to do so and teaches police first responders important lessons and skills to help maintain a positive mental attitude at work and in their private lives.

On Dec. 14, let us honor those who have died tragically, their families and the many first responders. They deserve your concerted effort to make every aspect of living safe and to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Adahe: Rikun Papet

Mapublika gi un` gasetan iya Hong Kong kometsiante siha ginen China ni man-miyinariun papet. Un` ratutu ha` mañgahulu` kabu` niha. I problema gaige `an manmafaisen para u fan man-apase. Seru! Taya` salape` gi lepblun bankun niha.

Hinatme Marianas nu este na klasen kometsiante. Mauleg i kabisiyun i hegsu` I Deni` umarikonose haye este na kompania pot proteksion fondun iya Marianas. Muñga na uma-aksepta sin kabales na hinisgua haf` tinatten niha gi bandan fondu.

Ti chagu` yan pa`gu siempre tafan konbetsasion haf` masusedi. Lastima i inañgoghu ni tai tinate fotmat na fondu.

Futuna-ta: Maseha tafuñut pinadesisita gi halum sapet na kondision kinalamten familia ta suñgun pot satbasion-ta, diariu.

Este na obligasion mana`e i mansabiun I Deni` para u kayun mas asegurau yan libianu na chalan pot kualidat linala` tautau-ta.

Gaige na mau`udai este na diniseha gi homlu` na ekonomia. I homlu` na ekonomia libianu ha hatsa yan gama mauleg todu bote gi sagua`.

Hu akanteha haf` siha man-mapetsige guine na patte. Seru! Mas man-makalamya gi hatsadan sueddun niha. Gi halum este na diskuidu mas maluñu` ha`anen mayotmente ni man-ma-emplelea. Taya sattun na konsiderasion para uma-adelanta ha`anen empleau ni gumagana sueddun popble taimanu pinila` i federat. Tiempun "biliba" otru sakan.

■■■

Biba: I papulasion Marianas kase 56-mit na tautau. Lau pa`gu na Noche Buena 29 na mansabiun hegsu` I Deni` solu para u ginitai bonitu na ha`anen gupot siha. Los dimas memegaiña u fan ñgaha` hulu` gi lañget man-`emisirikotdia! Estague` na chinatsaga `nai mapega ha`anen linahyan.

■■■

`Nai hahatsa sueddun niha gi $71,100 gi sakan kumeke ilegña na debi lokue` u kabales kualifikasion niha tat kumu edukasion kolehu yan suffisiente na ekspirensia. Kuantu gi Da Boysis man-magradua gi kolehu? Kuantu mangai degree masters pot asuntun gobietnu? Guaha mohon mediu gi halum 29 na membro?

■■■

Dibi: Ñgai`an si señot Biktot Hokog `nai para unana`lu i $400,000 na salape taxpayers ni ha lagnos para bisnis familiaña? Guaha i Attorney General mapetsisige pot este na asuntu? Pot fabot sa` seriosu ayu na malabida ni umakontra yan mandatun konstitusion pot magastan salape` taxpayers.

■■■

**Ha`ane:** Huli`e motmut uchan gi sanhaya mientras malag gi sanlagu i kumeke diñgu hit na minachum atdau. Hu kontinua mañgge` gi komputa. Sige ha` lokue` estotbun mana`atotpe siha asuntu gi titanoshu mayotmente pot asuntun linahyan.

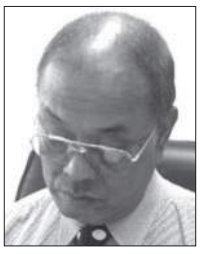
Guaha `nai chumaleg ñaihon-yu` na debi bai deskansa sa` taya`yu` umapunta polisian publiku. Lau i sensian responsable na sudadanu umafuetsas attension-hu pot proteksion i publiku gi halum estrakadan lina`la`.

Hinimiddi: Umasoda`yu` yan un` popblen amku` ni humatsaye kapiya i buttun Santa Maria gi kantun gima`ña. Diariu, humosme misa, macho`chu`, sumaunau gi lisayun familia dispues mañena. Sattun dibosioña gi as Santa Maria i nanan i Nanalibreta.

Ha pañgun interes-hu umadiñgane pot para bai fanuñgu` haf` gaige giya guiya na taiguihe na dinibotu gi as Santa Maria. Ha tanchu` hulu` ya ayu ha` ilegña, "Nanan i Sainata as Jesukristu". Trabiha estudiante-yu` `nai huhuñgog fino`ña i amku`.

Sessu dispues mattu gi hinasog-hu ayu na fino`ña piot `an hu tucha tinayuyot-hu gi pa`gu manana Si Yuus. Magahet, debi u guaha luseru yan fitme na añklan espirituat para u gai sustansia linala`ta. Ti deskribiyun ayu na sensian kinententu i ginen hilu`. Felis ha`anihu diariu.

Gaige enteru inangohog-hu gi Saina. Hagas ha pipetyu` gi halum barañka siha na katsada. I nanata as Santa Maria lumasa ha`ihu `nai hana` katma sensiaghu diariu. Hahassu na debi u guaha luseru yan añkla `sino mattiñgan `nai `oggan galaidemu!



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Bisita: Mattu tropan un` galaide` giya Luta ginen Guahan. Man-mafaisen hafa inañgai niha. Ilegniha na marikonose tanu` iya Luta. Ilegña un` tautau Luta, "Hagas ha` iya Luta guine tatnai humanau". Dios mihu!

■■■

Nobia: Ha faisen-yu` un` nietu haf` taimanu para sañganeña ni nobiaña na bastague`. Ileghu debi un` tunase i hagan tautau. Ilegña na ti bonitu i mampos buena na palabra. Huna hassu na asuntun umadespatta esta ha` ti bonitu! Gaige asuntu gi dos patman kanaiña. Kase finu` pinasensia ha espipiha i prohimu. Lau ni taimanu makat asuntun umadespatta. Dios mihu!

■■■

Buena: Magof i amiguhu Magoo kumanta sunidun Noche Buena. Esta tutuhu` lago`ña `nai ha usune "A`silensiu A`pueñge"—Silent Night. Gai minanñge` este katen bulachu. Kontodu mikosmu mames. Tulanoche kumanta A`felis A`idat (Felis Navidat). Magof i amiguhu. Bueno! Na`e animu na Noche Buena!

Rininueba: Ayuda i chatsaga ya unna` chatsaga i gefsaga. Gaige este gi finu` ebañgheliu. Debi unna` fonhayan tumaitai todu atmos banda para un` komprende i finu` kinilun i Saina as San Juan Bautista. Hu pula` gi taiguine: Bai konsuela i gai chinatsaga. Dispues, bai atan haf` finaposhu pot para baina` lamauleg ha`anihu. Guaha dididi` chinatsaga `nai sinsiyu un rinueba ha`animu!

What will it take to put sensible limits on guns?

WASHINGTON—If you ever had any doubt about the insensitivity of the U. S. Congress to the tragedy around it, it has been dispelled by the push to expand gun rights in the aftermath of two of the worst mass murders in the nation's history. One of these slaughters of the innocent of course was the Las Vegas massacre and the others at a church in Texas.

Despite the killing of 58 and the wounding of 200 or so at the Las Vegas concert with video game efficiency by an obvious madman and the bullet riddled Sunday service in Sutherland Springs that took the lives of 26 more by another maniac, a bill to allow more Americans to carry concealed weapons is making its way toward the top of the list of ignominious actions.

The proposed legislation would allow gun owners from states that allow concealed weapons to transport their guns to other states with similar laws even though the permission in the originating state may be much easier to come by. An example is New York, which has strict standards for qualifying for concealed carry, being forced to accept the permits of other states with far less strict requirements. In fact, New York now doesn't recognize concealed carry permits from any other states.

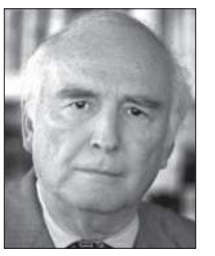
This bit of sham is the National Rifle Association's attempt to nationalize concealed carry. Ultimately that would be the result and this nation truly would be faced with the prospect of never knowing whether the person next to you is armed. The argument always propounded by the gun lobby is that concealed weapons enhance public safety. Actually, data shows just the opposite is true. Self-defense incidents are rare. Deaths caused by concealed weapons carriers are not. The New York Times, citing numbers provided by the Violence Policy Center, a gun safety group, says that since 2007 those carrying concealed weapons have been responsible for 1,119 deaths not involving self-defense. Among these have been 31 mass shootings, including 21 law enforcement officers.

A group of retired military generals have joined an opposition group organized by former congresswoman Gabby Giffords. Giffords was a victim of an attempted assassination during a campaign rally that wounded her terribly and brought about a loud but once again short-lived outcry for gun reform. The top officers warned about the accelerating firearms violence, predicted it would increase and pleaded with a recalcitrant Congress to stop the carnage. But one shouldn't hold out too much hope that their pleas will succeed. Such campaigns by other distinguished Americans certainly haven't.

Against a background where Congress thumbs its nose at data that shows a majority of Americans—as many as 90 percent—believe in stricter gun laws for such non-controversial measures as expanding background checks for gun buyers, it is difficult to imagine what it would take to bring about a national revulsion that demanded "Enough!" As the only commercial product enshrined in the Constitution, the answer would be a decisive ruling by the Supreme Court overturning a rather recent one that makes the right to own a gun an individual one rather than collective or... a constitutional convention to modify the Second Amendment.

The latter is certainly perilous because any attempt to open the Constitution could mean an all-out assault on it. The other way would entail a repeal of the amendment itself, which also would be unlikely although the evidence that it has become a threat to a safe society seems overwhelming. In the meantime, we can anticipate another massacre or two that will bring another "oh my, such horror" followed by a "ho hum" from the people who not only make our laws but those who make our guns and also those who make a living defending their unrestricted access.

In this seemingly never-ending game of numbers—now reaching more than 300 million "loose cannons" on our streets and increasing mass murders—where do we find relief? Clearly not the fools who occupy Capitol Hill...and the White House.



By DAN K. THOMASSON
Tribune News Service

Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers. Readers may send him email at: thomassondan@aol.com .

FIVE

From Page 10

there, trying to get in?

The darkness that spread over Sandy Hook in the days after the massacre spread through all of Connecticut, through the entire nation. But the men and women who lost sons and daughters that day decided that the only way to truly honor their memories was to fight that darkness. If the parent of a 6-year-old gunned down by a madman can do that, can we?

Love may well win, someday. It just might be harder to get there than we imagined.

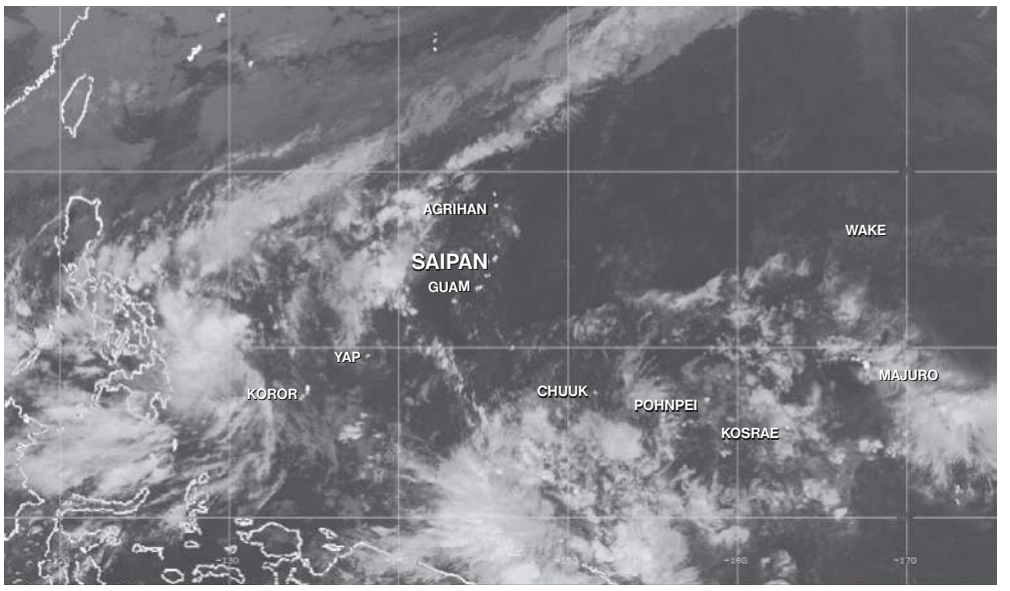
(c)2017 The Hartford Courant (Hartford, Conn.)

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:25 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast. Did update winds with new model data. Latest model data continue to show decreasing deep layer moisture through the day. Latest Water Vapor imagery hints at decreasing deep layer moisture inching in from the east validating the model projections. With drier air filtering expect only partly cloudy skies with isolated showers today. Models show that the dry air will persist over the area keeping the showers at a minimum through Wednesday night. An area of trade-wind convergence and recovering deep layer moisture will generate isolated showers and thunderstorms Thursday through Saturday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 61°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	30° / 18°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	66° / 64°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	78° / 70°
London	Showers	46° / 37°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 51°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86° / 73°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 59°
Miami	Sunny	66° / 55°
New York	Windy	31° / 24°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	46° / 36°
Paris	Showers	43° / 34°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	45° / 34°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°
Salem	Sunny	50° / 34°
San Francisco	Sunny	60° / 45°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	32° / 18°
Tokyo	Sunny	48° / 34°
Washington, DC	Windy	33° / 25°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:27 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.40
9:53 AM	LOW TIDE	0.75
4:09 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.93
11:18 PM	LOW TIDE	0.24

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Thursday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Friday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Sunday	6:36 AM	5:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:10 am	2:22 pm	-
Thursday	2:59 am	3:02 pm	-
Friday	3:48 am	3:42 pm	-
Saturday	4:37 am	4:24 pm	-
Sunday	5:26 am	5:08 pm	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Bitcoin futures soar amid frenzy over virtual currency

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street got its first taste of bitcoin on Monday, with the price of the first-ever futures contract for the digital currency jumping 20 percent.

It's a step forward for the bitcoin, which has soared this year despite concerns that the surge of investor interest has transformed it from a new-age currency into just the latest speculative bubble.

One prominent securities regulator warned that people were now taking out second mortgages on their homes to buy bitcoin.

The January contract for bitcoin futures closed at $18,545 on the Cboe Futures Exchange. Trading began Sunday and the price rose as high as $18,850, according to data from the Cboe.

The bitcoin futures first day of trading was not entirely smooth. The Cboe's website crashed several times or slowed down, due to a surge of interest. The exchange halted trading twice on the first day to stem volatility. The exchange operator has rules in place to stop trading after price swings of 10 percent.

The Cboe said at least 20 trading firms "actively participated" in the first day of trading, without giving specifics. Volume of the bitcoin futures was relatively low, trading less than 4,000 contracts compared with the tens of thousands that typically trade for more popular commodities like oil, gold, or wheat, or the hundreds of thousands of contracts for popular stock-based futures like the S&P 500.

AP

In this Friday, Dec. 8, 2017, photo, coins are displayed next to a Bitcoin ATM in Hong Kong.

The Cboe futures don't involve actual bitcoin. They allow investors to make bets on the future direction of bitcoin. Monday's futures price indicates investors expect bitcoin to keep rising in the coming weeks, although at a slower pace than seen recently. The futures price was about 8 percent higher than the price of $17,100 quoted for bitcoin on the large private exchange CoinBase late Monday afternoon.

But with the surge of interest has come concerns about the bitcoin market being in a bubble. In an interview on business network CNBC, North American Securities Administrators Association President Joseph Borg said he observed some people taking out mortgages on their house to buy bitcoin.

While bitcoin has a vocal group of true believers, it also attracts its fair share of detractors. JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon has called bitcoin "a fraud." Thomas Peterffy, chairman of the broker-dealer Interactive Brokers Group, expressed deep concerns about the trading of bitcoin futures last month, saying "there is no fundamental basis for valuation of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, and they may assume any price from one day to the next."

But there is some hopes that bringing bitcoin to a public exchange like the Cboe or the Chicago Mercantile Exchange will bring some regulation or legitimacy to the world of crypto-currencies.

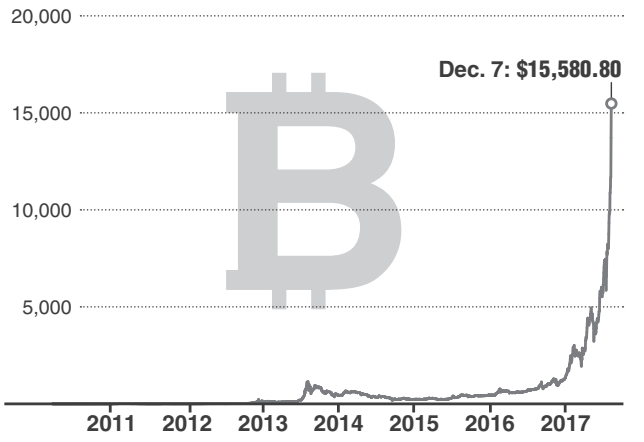
"The next immediate things we will see with the futures is more predictable price movement and less volatility," said Emin Gun Sirer, a professor at Cornell University who studies digital currencies like bitcoin.

There have been other attempts to bring bitcoin investing into the mainstream. Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss, twin brothers who own large amounts of bitcoin, tried to create an exchange-traded fund based on bitcoin, but federal regulators denied their application. The Winklevoss twins run Gemini, however, the exchange the CBOE is using to price its bitcoin futures.

Cboe's rival exchange CME will start trading its own futures on Dec. 18 but will use a composite of several bitcoin prices across a handful of exchanges.

Bitcoin at all-time high

Bitcoin, a digital currency not tied to any nation state, recently reached an exchange rate of more than $15,000 for one bitcoin.



Source: CoinDesk Graphic: Tribune News Service

Trump administration gives tax overhaul plan rosy assessment

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump on Wednesday will try to sell the American people on an unpopular Republican tax overhaul that his administration claims will generate a large part of $1.8 trillion in new revenue— a figure that a top Democratic lawmaker dismissed as "fake math."

Trump's pitch will focus on how the GOP tax reform plan will lead to a brighter future for taxpayers and their families, according to spokeswoman Lindsay Walters. House and Senate negotiators are rushing to finalize a bill and deliver the measure to Trump before Christmas.

Trump and Republican leaders in Congress have promoted the massive tax plan by promising the tax cuts will boost the economy. Their idea is that growth sparked by the legislation will let the tax cuts pay for themselves and not balloon the $20 trillion deficit.

Public polling shows many Americans are unhappy with the proposal. The House and Senate tax bills combine steep tax cuts for corporations with more modest reductions for individuals.

The administration's rosy estimate of new revenue from the tax plan over 10 years is a lot higher than nonpartisan congressional analysts have projected. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that growth stimulated by the anticipated tax cuts will generate some $408 billion in additional tax revenue over 10 years.

The new Treasury Department analysis says about half the expected increase in economic growth likely will result from tax benefits for corporations. Trump and the Republicans have insisted that businesses will use the tax savings to invest and create new jobs.

According to the Treasury analysis, the other half of new revenue will come from tax reductions for individuals and businesses whose profits are reported on owners' personal income tax returns, as well as from planned administration initiatives such as infrastructure development and a welfare overhaul.

The analysis includes an assumption that tax cuts and other administration policies would cause the economy to expand at a 2.9 percent annual pace over 10 years. Economic growth at that level would, in theory, be enough to keep the national debt from rising.

But most analyses have concluded that the tax overhaul would add at least $1 trillion to budget deficits in the next decade because the analyses foresee significantly less growth resulting from the tax cuts.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer called the administration's analysis "nothing more than one page of fake math."

"It's clear the White House and Republicans are grasping at straws to prove the unprovable and garner votes for a bill that nearly every single independent analysis has concluded will blow up the deficit and generate almost no additional economic activity to make up for it," Schumer said.

The estimates by Treasury and the Joint Committee on Taxation apply specifically to the Senate bill. Underlining the divergent estimates, the congressional tax committee released an analysis of the House bill late Monday projecting sufficient growth to generate $483 billion in new revenue.

Republicans are determined to deliver the first revamp of the nation's tax code in three decades and prove they can govern after their failure to dismantle Barack Obama's health care law.

GOP leaders in Congress aim to iron out differences between the $1.5 trillion House and Senate tax bills to pass a final blended package.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Comcast reportedly no longer in deal talks with Fox

NEW YORK (AP)—Citing a Comcast statement, the Wall Street Journal reported that the cable company is no longer in discussions to buy pieces of 21st Century Fox . That could open the door to a Disney bid. Comcast declined to provide its statement to the Associated Press. A person familiar with the situation, who was not permitted to discuss the matter publicly, confirmed the end of negotiations. The Journal said Disney is currently talking with Fox and that a deal could be announced this week. Fox declined to comment. Disney is planning to launch its own streaming services as a way of contending with changes in the entertainment industry and deep-pocketed tech companies that are building their own video divisions. Buying parts of Fox could give it more material to stream.

Charges: Turkish businessman exported US goods to Iran

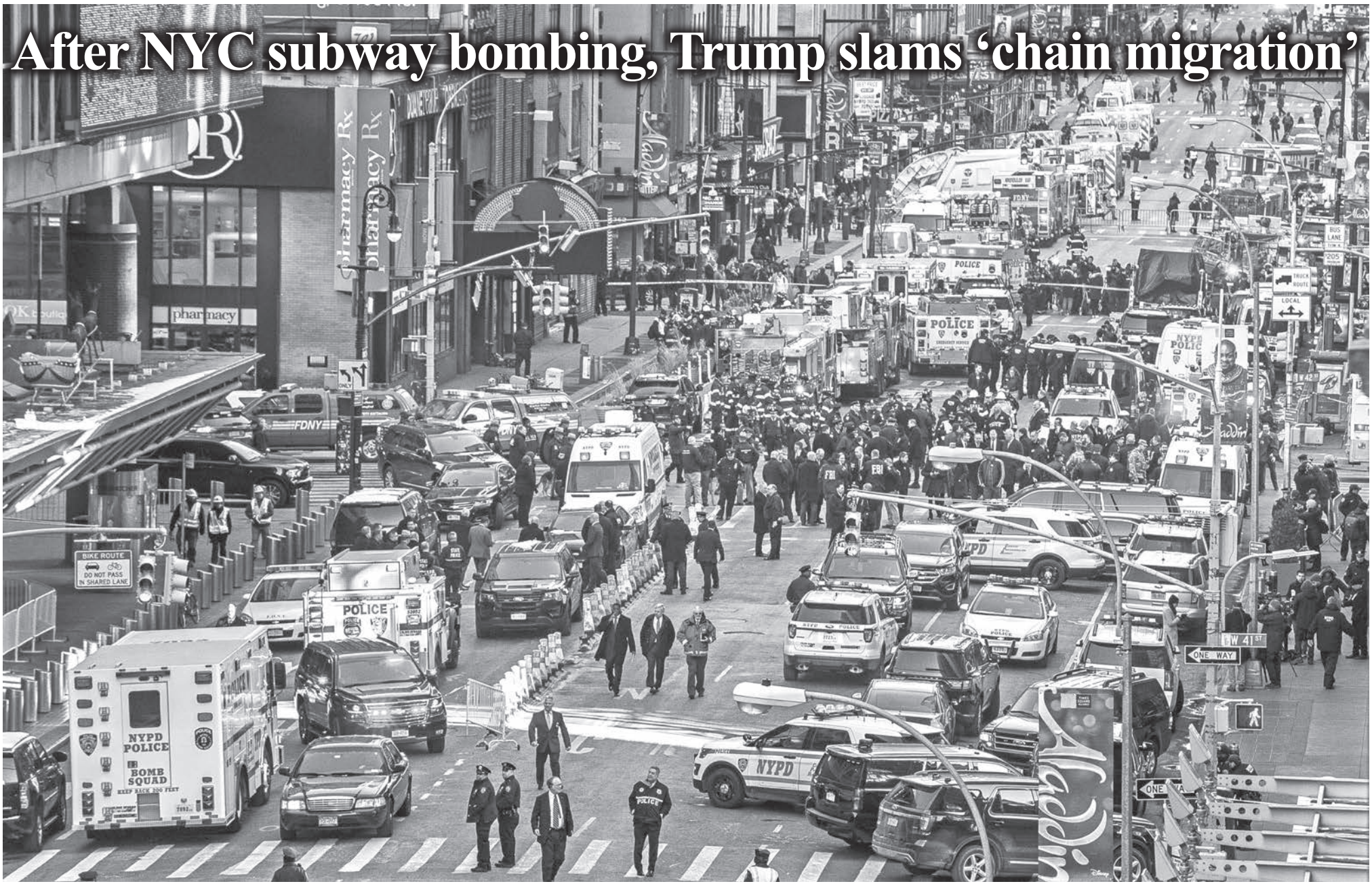
MILWAUKEE (AP)—Federal prosecutors allege a Turkish businessman helped illegally route Wisconsin-made outboard engines and boat generators to the Iranian navy. Forty-year-old Resit Tavan of Istanbul appeared in U.S. District Court in Milwaukee Monday. Tavan was arrested in Romania in June on an international warrant. Tavan, his Turkish company and a manager there are accused of conspiring to defraud the U.S. and to smuggle American-made products to Iran. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports the indictment alleges they failed to obtain the special licenses needed to get around trade embargoes against Iran in place since 1995. Instead, the defendants allegedly negotiated the export of the engines and generators to Turkey, then re-exported them to Iran. Tavan's attorney, Nejla Lane, told The Associated Press her client pleaded not guilty and will fight the charges.

Apple orchestrates deal for song-recognition app Shazam

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple has bought Shazam, the maker of a song-recognition app that Apple's digital assistant Siri has already been using to help people identify the music playing on their iPhones. The companies didn't disclose the price of the acquisition announced Monday. Technology news site Recode previously reported Apple is paying about $400 million for Shazam, citing three unidentified people familiar with the deal. Apple Inc. issued a statement describing Shazam as "natural fit" with its services. "We have exciting plans in store, and we look forward to combining with Shazam," Apple said. The Cupertino, California, company declined to say whether Shazam's app will still be available after the deal closes.

Nation

After NYC subway bombing, Trump slams 'chain migration'



Law enforcement officials work following an explosion near New York's Times Square on Monday, Dec. 11, 2017. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—A would-be suicide bomber's rush-hour blast in the heart of the New York City subway system failed to cause the bloodshed he intended, authorities said, but it gave new fuel to President Donald Trump's push to limit immigration.

Hours after Monday's explosion in an underground passageway connecting two of Manhattan's busiest stations, Trump cited the background of the alleged bomber in renewing his call for closer scrutiny of foreigners who come to the country and less immigration based on family ties.

The man arrested in the bombing, Akayed Ullah — who told investigators he wanted to retaliate for American action against Islamic State extremists — came to the U.S. from Bangladesh in 2011 on a visa available to certain relatives of U.S. citizens.

"Today's terror suspect entered our country through extended-family chain migration, which is incompatible with national security," Trump said in a statement that called for various changes to the immigration system. Earlier, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump's proposed policies "could have prevented this."

In a scenario New York had dreaded for years, Ullah strapped on a crude pipe bomb with Velcro and plastic ties, slipped unnoticed into the nation's busiest subway system and set off the device, authorities said.

The device didn't work as intended; authorities said Ullah, 27, was the only person seriously wounded. But the attack sent frightened commuters fleeing through a smoky passageway, and three people suffered headaches and ringing ears from the first bomb blast in the subway in more than two decades.

"This is one of my nightmares ... a terrorist attack in the subway system," Gov. Andrew Cuomo told cable channel NY1. "The good news is: We were on top of it."

Ullah was being treated for burns to his hands and abdomen but spoke to investigators from his hospital bed, law enforcement officials said. He was "all over the place" about his motive but indicated he wanted to avenge what he portrayed as U.S. aggression against the Islamic State group, a law enforcement official said.

Alabama foes make final push before big Senate vote

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—Facing voters at last after the year's most bitter U.S. campaign, Alabama Republican Roy Moore cast himself Monday as the victim of a national barrage of unjust allegations of sexual misconduct with teenagers. Rival Doug Jones, hoping to become the state's first Democratic senator in two decades, declared their race was Alabama's referendum on "who we are and what we're going to tell our daughters."

Allegations aside, President Donald Trump said in a robocall to Alabama voters that he badly needs Moore's own vote in the U.S. Senate. Former President Barack Obama and his vice president, Joe Biden, recorded calls for Jones seeking to break the GOP's lock on statewide office in Alabama.

Whether the calls would sway anyone so late in such a highly publicized campaign was an open question. So was the impact of a rash of false news stories that have appeared on social media spreading misinformation.

One website wrongly claimed that one of the women who have accused Moore of sexual misconduct had recanted. Meanwhile, Moore's detractors took to social media to claim he had written in a 2011 textbook that women shouldn't hold elected office. He didn't.

On election eve, Moore called in to a conservative talk radio show in Alabama to lament the tone of the campaign and portray cast himself as the victim of the sexual misconduct allegations.

"We've seen things happen in this campaign that I can't believe to this day," said Moore, who has denied all wrongdoing in contacts with the women who said he behaved inappropriately when they were in their teens and he was a local prosecutor in his 30s. One said he initiated sexual contact when she was 14.

"It's just been hard, a hard campaign," said Moore, a former Alabama Supreme Court chief justice who was twice removed from that post for violating judicial ethics.

Tribes: Monument co-management proposal is slap in the face

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—President Donald Trump's decision to drastically reduce and break up a national monument in Utah wasn't the only blow Native American tribes say they were dealt last week.

The president's proclamation on Bears Ears National Monument also contained a little-known plan that changes the makeup of a tribal advisory commission for the remote monument filled with canyons, plateaus, rivers and rust-colored rock formations. It adds a county commissioner who is among the minority of Navajos to support Republicans in peeling back protections for the land.

The new commissioner will have the same authority as the group's five other members, all representatives of tribes.

The same day the president visited Utah to cut the monument by 85 percent to 315 square miles (815 square kilometers) and divide it into two units, a Utah congressman introduced legislation to create tribal co-management councils that were touted by Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

The Utah congressional delegation sees the changes as unifying forces in a region long divided over land management, and as a way to ensure local control.

Tribes say that while co-management might sound nice, the proposal by Republican Rep. John Curtis excludes tribes outside Utah and lets the president hand-select most representatives.

"Don't try to appease us by giving us something you think we want or you think will make us happy," said Katherine Belzowski, an attorney with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice. "This is a slap in the face."

Supporters heralded Bears Ears as the first national monument created by tribes on land they hold sacred. The monument contains tens of thousands of archaeological sites, including cliff dwellings.

Critics said President Barack Obama's decision to designate 2,188 square miles (5,667 square kilometer) was an egregious abuse of the Antiquities Act.

The original proclamation established the Bears Ears Commission as an advisory panel with one elected official from each of the Hopi, Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, Ute and Zuni tribes.

Asia

Duterte asks Philippine Congress to extend martial law

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte asked Congress on Monday to extend the martial law he declared in the country's south by one year to ensure the "total eradication" of pro-Islamic State group extremists, warning they plan more uprisings after an unsuccessful but disastrous siege of Marawi city.

Duterte said the remaining militants still hope to establish a caliphate in the Philippines and Southeast Asia after government forces killed more than 900 fighters and quelled the five-month Marawi siege in October.

Left-wing and pro-democracy groups have protested Duterte's imposition of martial law because of human rights concerns, but the Supreme Court has upheld its legality.

In a letter to the Senate and the House of Representatives, Duterte said extending martial law in the southern Mindanao region through the end of 2018 would allow government forces to press offensives against other armed groups, including the Abu Sayyaf and communist guerrillas, who have intensified attacks.

Despite the killing of Isnilon Hapilon, long wanted by the United States and the Philippines, and other leaders of the Marawi attack, "the remnants of their groups have continued to rebuild their organization through the recruitment and training of new members and fighters to carry on the rebellion," Duterte said in his letter, which was provided to reporters.

Rep. Edcel Lagman said Congress should reject Duterte's request because there was no more constitutionally outlined ground for martial law after the president declared Marawi has been freed from terrorist influence. Congress, which is dominated by Duterte's allies, approved Duterte's martial law declaration this year. The Senate and House will meet jointly on Wednesday to decide.

Duterte's request for a martial law extension amounts to a "patent violation of the safeguards which the 1987 constitution imposes for the limited grounds and duration of martial law and its extension," Lagman said.

The Marawi violence displaced about half a million people and turned mosque-studded Marawi's central business and residential districts into a smoldering war zone.

The uprising that began on May 23 prompted Duterte to declare martial law and reinforced fears that the Islamic State group was taking steps to gain a foothold in Asia and elsewhere as it faced battle setbacks in Syria and Iraq.

Some gunmen and commanders managed to escape during the fighting, the military said.

One of the militants who might replace Hapilon, Esmail Abdulmalik, who uses the nom de guerre Abu Turaife, has been monitored to be planning bombings in the south, Duterte said. An IS-linked faction in another militant band, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Group, has intensified roadside bombings and attacks on troops.

Communist New People's Army guerrillas, meanwhile, have taken advantage of the military's preoccupation with Muslim extremists and increased their attacks on troops and businesses in the south, killing 41 government security personnel and destroying at least 2.2 billion pesos ($43 million) in property, Duterte said.

The threats continue to make the south a "hotbed of rebellion," he said.

Duterte has called off peace talks with the Maoist rebels to protest their attacks and moved to designate them as terrorists under the law.

He has indicated, however, that he is still open to a resumption of talks if the communist insurgents stop their assaults. "Let's give time for a cooling off with the Communist Party of the Philippines," Duterte said in a speech last week.

AP

In this Nov. 30, 2017, file photo, protesters burn the effigies of President Rodrigo Duterte, left, and U.S. President Donald Trump during a rally near the Presidential Palace to mark the 154th birth anniversary of the country's revolutionary hero Andres Bonifacio, in Manila, Philippines.

Australian lawmaker quits over Chinese political links

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—An influential Australian opposition lawmaker under fire over his close links to wealthy Chinese political donors announced on Tuesday that he was quitting the Senate for the good of his party as the government moves against foreign interference in politics.

Sam Dastyari announced that he would quit as a senator for the center-left Labor Party before Parliament next sits in February. The move comes after Cabinet Minister Peter Dutton on Monday described him as a "double agent" of China.

"I've been guided by my Labor values, which tell me that I should leave if my ongoing presence detracts from the pursuit of Labor's mission," Dastyari told reporters. "It is evident to me we are at that point, so I will spare the party any further distraction," he added.

Dastyari refused to take questions from reporters.

The 34-year-old senator widely known as Shanghai Sam resigned from his leadership roles in Labor last month over scandals involving the wealthy Sydney-based Chinese businessman and political donor Huang Xiangmo that have raised accusations of China buying influence.

Australian security chiefs have advised against accepting political donations from Huang because of his suspected links to the Chinese Community Party.

Labor has accused the conservative government of tapping into community "Chinaphobia" to attack Dastyari.

A week ago, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced that Australia will ban foreign interference in its politics— either through espionage or financial donations— in a move motivated largely by Russia's alleged involvement in last year's U.S. election and China's growing influence on the global political landscape.

On Friday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Turnbull's remarks were prejudiced against China and had poisoned the atmosphere of China-Australia relations.

China is Australia's largest trading partner and its biggest source of foreign political funds. Australian law has never distinguished between donors from Australia and overseas.

The government said Dastyari's has not broken current laws, but the reformed laws would not allow a repeat of Dastyari asking Huang to pay a $1,250 travel bill that Dastyari owed.

Dutton, who will head Australia's security and intelligence agencies as the government's first minister for home affairs next year, accused Dastyari of being a "double agent" who should be dumped by Labor.

"Sam Dastyari can't be beholden to a foreign power and pretend to be acting in the Australian public's interest by being a senator in the Australian Parliament," Dutton told reporters.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Rahul Gandhi named chief of India's Congress party

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's main opposition Congress party on Monday named Rahul Gandhi, the scion of the country's Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty, as party president. Gandhi was elected to the post unopposed and succeeds his mother, Sonia Gandhi, for the top job in the party. The party had governed India for decades before the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata party swept to power in 2014. Gandhi faces the difficult task of resurrecting a crumbling Congress party, a task made harder by a series of crushing defeats in state elections over the last year. Gandhi, 47, entered politics in 2004 and is a member of India's Parliament. He was appointed party vice president in 2013. Sonia Gandhi has led the party for 19 years. She has had health problems over the last few years, but the family and party have released little information about them. Rahul Gandhi becomes the sixth member of the Nehru-Gandhi family to lead Congress. His father, Rajiv Gandhi, his grandmother Indira Gandhi and his great-grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru have served as prime minister since India's independence from British colonialists in 1947.

American man escapes from prison on Indonesia's Bali

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian police are hunting for an American citizen who escaped Monday from an overcrowded and understaffed prison on the Indonesian resort island of Bali. Head of Kerobokan prison Tonny Nainggolan said Chrishan Beasley, 32, is believed to have escaped at around 4 a.m. by sawing through a ceiling and then climbing over a 6-meter (20-foot)—high wall behind the prison. Beasley was arrested in August at a post office in the Kuta tourist area of Bali with a package containing 5.7 grams of hashish. Nainggolan said another American inmate, Paul Anthony Hoffman, 57, who has been serving a 20-month prison sentence since July for robbery, was captured while trying to escape. An investigation was underway to determine if prison guards were involved in the escape, said Surung Pasaribu of the local office of the Law and Human Rights Ministry. He also said there is a shortage of guards for the prison, which was built to accommodate about 300 people but has nearly 1,600 inmates.

Ex-US deserter to NKorea who married Japan abductee dies

TOKYO (AP)—Charles Jenkins, a U.S Army deserter to North Korea who married a Japanese abductee and lived in Japan after their release, has died. He was 77. A group representing families of Japanese abductees to North Korea said Tuesday that Jenkins died the day before. Jenkins, of Rich Square, North Carolina, was found collapsed outside his home in Sado, northern Japan, rushed to a hospital and later pronounced dead. The cause of death wasn't released. Jenkins disappeared in January 1965 while patrolling along the Demilitarized Zone dividing North and South Korea. He came to Japan in 2004 to be with his wife Hitomi Soga, who was kidnapped to North Korea in 1978 but allowed to visit home in 2002 and stayed. The two met in North Korea and had two daughters.

World

In Putin's heartland, apathy and disappointment rule

AP
In this photo taken on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017, People raise hands at a rally of Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny in Novokuznetsk, Russia.

NOVOKUZNETSK, Russia (AP)—Three months ahead of Russia's presidential election, apathy and disappointment pervade incumbent Vladimir Putin's heartland.

Alexandra Chekh, a retired kindergarten director, voted for Putin the last time around in 2012. Now she wonders if he has anything to offer.

"Change? If he could do it, he would have done it by now," she said. "If nothing gets done, then maybe we will need a new person."

A new person is unlikely—the 65-year-old Putin is the overwhelming favorite in Russia's March 18 presidential vote. But the dim view taken by former supporters such as Chekh is notable in a city like Novokuznetsk, part of the Kemerovo region in southwestern Siberia where Putin tallied 77 percent of the vote in 2012.

The city itself lies 4,500 miles (7,240 kilometers) east of Moscow.

Since that last election, anti-corruption campaigner and adamant Putin foe Alexei Navalny has been able to spread his message far beyond the prosperous and educated urban circles of Moscow and St. Petersburg where his support started. But Navalny is saddled by a fraud and embezzlement conviction— which his supporters view as politically motivated— that will prevent him from running in the presidential race unless he's pardoned or some other dispensation is made.

Navalny is pressing on, nonetheless. On Saturday, several hundred people showed up at his rally in Novokuznetsk, a city of nearly 550,000 people that is home to coal mines, metals plants and soot-smelling air. Some at the rally came without hats or gloves despite the minus—15 Celsius (minus—5 Fahrenheit) temperatures.

Navalny focused on the grievances he has been highlighting throughout the campaign: low pay for state employees, the concentration of wealth in Moscow and the Kremlin's excessive funding for foreign policy forays.

Official statistics show the region's average monthly pay as 31,600 rubles ($532), a little under the Russian average. But Novokuznetsk residents think those figures are inflated by officials. When Navalny asked the crowd how much a nurse makes in Novokuznetsk, they shouted "10,000" or "15,000."

If Putin's 18 years in power have induced apathy and a sense of helplessness among Russian voters, that's the big issue in Navalny's view.

Putin has made voters in industrial cities like Novokuznetsk his base, touting stability as the key achievement of his rule. But these days, finding a fervent Putin supporter on Novokuznetsk's snow-covered streets can be hard.

Of seven residents approached by an AP reporter, only four said they supported Putin. None of them expressed enthusiasm.

A survey by the independent polling agency Levada Center suggests that enthusiasm for Putin is in decline countrywide. It found that 51 percent of those questioned said they were tired of waiting for Putin to bring "positive change," 10 percentage points higher than a year ago.

Through his canny, energetic use of social media and YouTube, Navalny has done an end-run around Russia's state-controlled news media, which is the main source of information for people outside of the country's main cities. Demonstrations called by Navalny this year rattled the Kremlin, not only because of their large turnouts but due to the fact they were taking place in provincial cities throughout the country.

Venezuela president's threat to ban opposition draws rebuff

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Opposition parties in Venezuela won't be bullied out of participating in future elections, a leading anti-government politician said Monday, rejecting threats a day earlier by socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

As the ruling socialists captured a majority of mayoral seats across Venezuela on Sunday, Maduro said that opposition parties would be banned from future elections as punishment for boycotting the races.

But Juan Mejia, a leader of opposition party Voluntad Popular, called the vote an "electoral farce," saying that his party would not be eliminated by a presidential decree.

"This party does not kneel," he said. "This party does not back down and does not give up on its principles."

Three of the four biggest opposition parties refused to take part in Sunday's contests, protesting what they called an electoral system rigged by a "dictator."

The tense exchange stems from Sunday's voting, which marked the last nationwide elections before next year's presidential race, in which Maduro is expected to seek another term despite his steep unpopularity.

At a rally held Sunday in the colonial center of Caracas, Maduro announced that pro-government candidates swept the mayoral offices as hundreds of supporters shouted "Go Home, Donald Trump!"

Communications minister Jorge Rodriguez said Monday that government candidates won 308 of 335 mayor seats.

"The imperialists have tried to set fire to Venezuela to take our riches," Maduro told the crowd. "We've defeated the American imperialists with our votes, our ideas, truths, reason and popular will."

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert condemned Maduro's threat in a tweet as "yet another extreme measure to close the democratic space" in Venezuela and consolidate power in an "authoritarian dictatorship."

"We stand with the Venezuelan people as they seek to restore their democracy," she said.

Julio Borges, president of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, took his case Monday to the Vatican, meeting with Cardinal Pietro Parolin, who is the Vatican's Secretary of State and the former papal nuncio in Caracas.

Borges said on Twitter that the two men talked about opening a humanitarian channel in the country and about ongoing negotiations with Maduro's government.

He also said that Vatican officials, including Pope Francis, are closely watching developments in Venezuela. "We agree that humanitarian cooperation and a free vote are the priorities at this moment," Borges said.

Despite being an oil-rich country, Venezuelans struggles with triple-digit inflation, shortages of food and medicine, and charges that Maduro's government has undermined democracy by imprisoning dissidents and usurping the powers of the National Assembly.

Maduro made his threats against opposition parties after dropping his vote into a cardboard ballot box.

"A party that has not participated today cannot participate anymore," Maduro said in televised comments Sunday. "They will disappear from the political map."

This has been a turbulent year for Venezuela, which holds the world's largest oil reserves but has been battered by low crude prices and a crash in production. The country saw months of protests that left more than 120 dead earlier this year, and it is now facing U.S. economic sanctions as it seeks to refinance a huge international debt.

The struggles have caused the president's approval rating to plunge, although the opposition has been largely unable to capitalize on Maduro's unpopularity.

Baby formula maker calls global recall over salmonella fears

PARIS (AP)—Baby milk maker Lactalis and French authorities have ordered a global recall of millions of products over fears of salmonella bacteria contamination.

The French company, one of the world's largest dairy groups, said it was warned by health authorities in France that 26 infants have become sick since Dec. 1.

According to a list published on the French health ministry's website, the recall affects customers in countries around the world, including: Britain and Greece in Europe, Morocco and Sudan in Africa, Peru and Colombia in South America and Pakistan, Bangladesh and China in Asia. The United States, a major market for Lactalis, is not affected.

Company spokesman Michel Nalet told The Associated Press on Monday that the "precautionary" recall involves "several million" products made since mid-February.

Lactalis said in a statement that the 26 cases of infection were linked to products branded Picot SL, Pepti Junior 1, Milumel Bio 1 and Picot Riz.

It said it is "sincerely sorry for the concern generated by the situation and expresses its compassion and support to the families whose children fell ill."

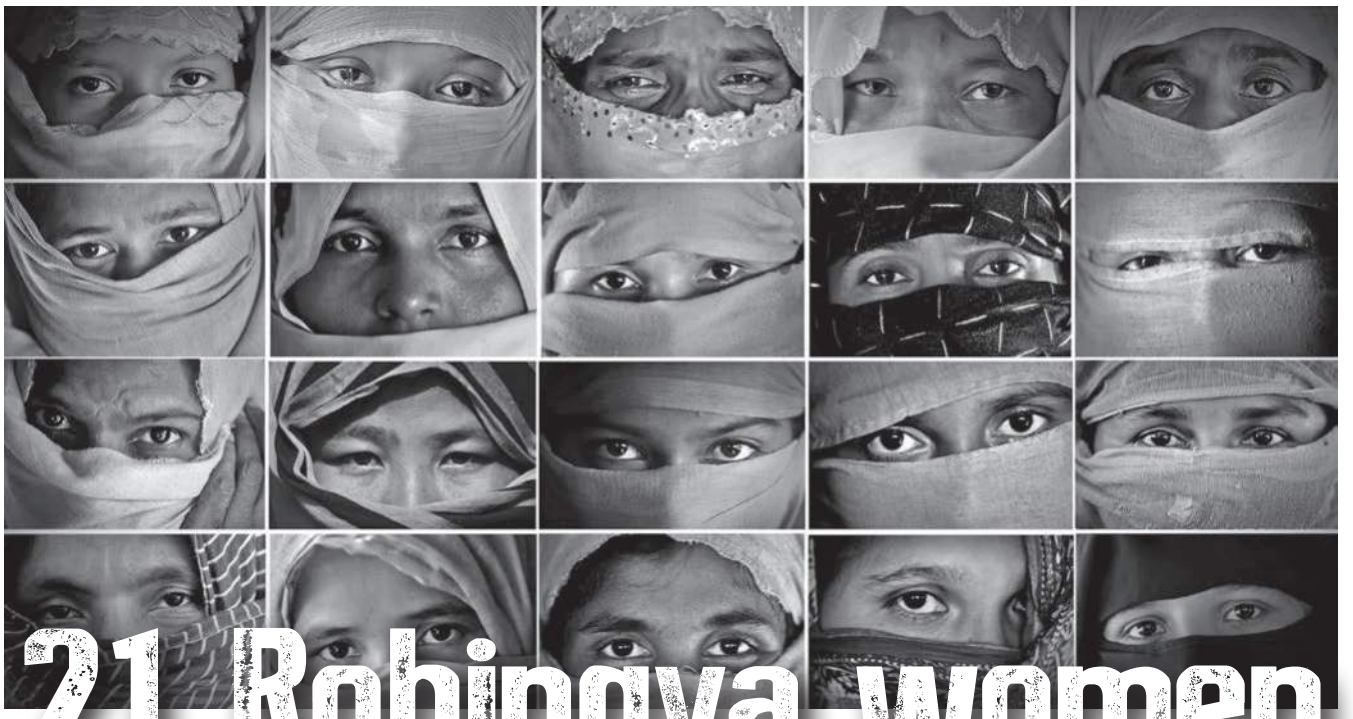
The symptoms of salmonella infection include abdominal cramps, diarrhea and fever. Most people recover without treatment.

The company said a possible source of the outbreak has been identified in a tower used to dry out the milk at a production site. Disinfection and cleaning measures have been put in place at the suspected site in western France.

The health scare started earlier this month when Lactalis was told that 20 infants under six months of age had been diagnosed with salmonella infection. The company ordered a first recall that has been extended to more products at the request of French authorities following new reports of infections.

Lactalis is a privately held company headquartered in Laval, western France. It has 75,000 employees in 85 countries and annual revenues of about 17 billion euros ($20 billion). Its other notable brands include President and Galbani cheeses and Parmalat milk.

Focus



This combo photo comprises of portraits of some of the Rohingya Muslim women taken during an interview with The Associated Press in November 2017 in Kutupalong and Gundum refugee camp in Bangladesh. They said they were raped by members of Myanmar's armed forces. The use of rape by Myanmar's armed forces has been sweeping and methodical, the AP found in interviews with 29 Rohingya Muslim women and girls now in Bangladesh. They were interviewed separately, come from a variety of villages in Myanmar and now live spread across several refugee camps in Bangladesh. The military has denied its soldiers raped any Rohingya women. AP

21 Rohingya women recount rape by Myanmar armed forces

By KRISTEN GELINEAU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

UKHIA, Bangladesh (AP)— The use of rape by Myanmar's armed forces has been sweeping and methodical, The Associated Press found in interviews with 29 Rohingya Muslim women and girls now in Bangladesh.

They were interviewed separately, come from a variety of villages in Myanmar and now live spread across several refugee camps in Bangladesh. Yet their stories were hauntingly similar. The military has denied its soldiers raped any Rohingya women.

Here are the accounts as told by 21 women and girls. They agreed to be identified in this story by their first initial only, out of fear the military will kill them or their families.

SHE IS ONLY 13

She is only 13, but R had already learned to fear the military men. Last year, she says, soldiers stabbed her father to death.

One day in late August, 10 soldiers barged into R's house. They snatched her two little brothers, tied them to a tree and beat them.

R tried to run out the front door, but the men caught her. They tethered her arms to two trees. They ripped off her earrings and bracelets, and stripped off her clothes.

R screamed at them to stop. They spit at her.

Then the first man began to rape her. The pain was excruciating. All ten men forced themselves on her before she passed out.

R's older brothers carried her toward the border. Once in Bangladesh, a doctor gave her emergency contraceptives.

R desperately misses her little brothers, and her sleep is plagued by nightmares. She struggles to eat.

Before the rape, she says softly, she was pretty.

RAPED TWICE

F and her husband were asleep at home in June when seven soldiers charged into their bedroom. The men bound her husband with rope and gagged him with a scarf they ripped from F's head.

They yanked off F's jewelry and stripped off her clothes. They threw her to the floor, where the first soldier began to rape her.

Her husband wriggled the gag from his mouth and screamed. One soldier shot him, and another slit his throat.

After the assault, the men dumped F's naked body outside her home and set it on fire. The neighbors rescued her. Two months later, she realized she was pregnant.

In September, her nightmare began again. F was asleep at a neighbor's house when five soldiers broke down the door.

The soldiers slashed the throat of the 5-year-old boy who lived there and killed his father. They stripped off the women's clothes. Two men raped F, and three men raped her friend.

After the men left, the women lay on the floor for days before fleeing for Bangladesh.

Despite everything, F is determined to love the child.

HER HUSBAND BLAMED HER

K and her family were settling down to breakfast one morning in late August when they heard the screams of other villagers outside. Her husband and three oldest children bolted out the door.

But K was nearly 9 months pregnant and had two toddlers to watch. She couldn't run anywhere.

The men barged in, threw her on the bed, yanked off her jewelry and stole the money she had hidden in her blouse. They ripped off her clothes and tied down her hands and legs with rope. When she resisted, they choked her.

And then they began to rape her.

She was too terrified to move. One man held a knife to her eyeball, one a gun to her chest. Another forced himself inside her. Then they switched places. All three men raped her.

She began to bleed and was certain her baby was dying.

She blacked out.

When she awoke, the men had gone. Her husband blamed her for the assault, admonishing her for not running away.

The family fled to Bangladesh. Two weeks later, K gave birth to her son.

I WAS IN IMMENSE PAIN

R was at home in late August with her husband and five of her six children when she heard a commotion outside. She saw houses going up in flames in her village.

Her husband ran out, but she had the children to take care of.

Five soldiers barged into the house. Her children screamed and ran outside.

The men stripped off her clothes, took her necklace and kicked her in her back with their knees. Then one of the men began to rape her, while the other four held her down and hit her with their guns. When it was over, they took money and her husband's clothes from the wardrobe.

She fled to Bangladesh with her family the next day. She struggled to move with her injuries, and had to use a walking stick.

"I was in immense pain," she says, pausing to take a long breath at the memory. "It hurt so much to walk through the hills."

Four days later, she arrived in Bangladesh.

ALLAH SAVED US

A was at home praying with her four children in late August when about 50 soldiers surrounded her village and opened fire on the men.

A began to shake; she had heard of soldiers raping women in other villages.

Three men burst into her house and told her to get out. She refused. They beat her.

Her children screamed. The soldiers slapped them, then threw them out of the house.

Two of the soldiers hit her until she fell. One pressed his boot against her chest, pinning her down. They took off her jewelry and stripped off her clothes.

Then all three raped her, punching and kicking her when she screamed. One pressed a knife to the back of her neck, making her bleed. She still bears a faint scar.

After the attack, she bled so heavily she thought she was dying. A farmer told her that her husband had been shot to death, so her brother, mother and daughter helped her make the painful trek to Bangladesh.

"They wanted to wipe us out from the world," she says of the military. "They tried very hard, but Allah saved us."

In the first few days after the attack, she cried all the time. Now she cries silently in her mind.

THE BABY GIRL WAS DEAD

M was at home feeding her son rice in late August when a bullet from the military blasted through the bamboo wall of her house and struck her teenage brother.

Her husband and children ran out of the house. But M was 8 months pregnant, and did not want to leave her brother behind. For two days, she stayed by his side, until he died.

Soon after, four soldiers charged into her house.

They began slapping and punching her. Three soldiers dragged her outside the house, stripped her and beat her. When she screamed, they put a gun in her mouth.

The first man began to rape her, while the other two held her down and punched and kicked her pregnant belly.

After the second rape, she kicked them so ferociously, they finally left.

M felt intense cramping in her belly. She gave birth that night at home. The baby girl was dead. M buried the infant in an unmarked grave by her house.

Her husband returned, and they made the three-day walk through the hills to Bangladesh.

"They humiliated us, they destroyed our land and farm, they took our cows, they took our produce," she says. "How would I go back? They destroyed our livelihood."

WHEN WILL I HAVE PEACE?

H was reciting the sunrise prayer at home in late August with her husband and six children when she heard a commotion outside.

A dozen soldiers burst through her door and started beating her husband. They grabbed three of her children by their feet, carried them outside and bashed them against trees, killing them.

Her husband screamed, and H ran out of the house. As she fled, she heard gunshots behind her. She never saw her husband again.

She made it with her three other children to the nearby hills, where other women from her village were hiding. But soldiers descended upon the women and dragged them away to rape them.

They ripped off H's clothes, took her jewelry and tied her hands behind her back with her headscarf.

One man held her head and hands back, while another held her legs. The third raped her. Then they switched. All three men raped her.

Her crying children refused to leave her side during the assault. The soldiers slapped them, kicked them, tried to shove them away. They refused to budge.

When the soldiers finished, her 8-year-old daughter tried to cover her naked body with her torn clothing.

It took her and her children four days to reach Bangladesh.

"I've lost my husband, I've lost my children, I've lost my country. When will God take me back to my country?" H says. "When will I have peace?"

I BURN INSIDE FOR MY CHILDREN

When seven soldiers stormed into the house in October 2016, S's husband fled. The soldiers began beating her parents.

A soldier beat S with his gun, ripped two of her babies from her arms and dropped them on the floor. They tore the clothes off S, her mother and several other young women in the house, and took S's earrings and money she had hidden in her clothes.

Two soldiers took S to a field. They covered her mouth with their hands to stop her screams. They held her down and raped her.

When it was over, she hid in the hills but eventually returned home.

In August, S was at home with her family when the military began firing rocket launchers at houses, setting them ablaze. Her husband and two eldest children fled, but she stayed behind to pack up her baby girls and a few belongings. One baby was in a swing, the other sleeping on the floor.

A rocket launcher hit the house. The babies went up in flames before her eyes.

There was nothing she could do. So she ran. She hid with the rest of her family in the hills for several days before making the 3-day trek to Bangladesh.

"I burn inside for my children, but what can I do?" she asks. "They burned to death. I guess that was my destiny."

SHE TOLD NO ONE

The military surrounded N's village one early morning in late August. Around 18 sol-

See 21 on Next Page

21

From Page 17

diers stormed her house, and dragged N outside with her sister-in-law and mother-in-law.

The women were taken to the center of the village, where soldiers robbed them of their jewelry.

Three men then took her to the hills and stripped her naked. Two men held down her hands while a third raped her. Then they switched positions. All three raped her.

During the attack, they showed her their knives and beat her. She was too frightened to fight back.

When it was over, they left her there. She returned home and told no one about the rape.

She was in agony after the assault and bled for eight days.

SHE SAW HER VILLAGE BURNING

There was no warning before five soldiers suddenly stormed into 16-year-old S's house one morning in early August.

They searched the home for money and valuables. Then they slashed her husband's neck, killing him. The men briefly left to ransack other neighboring houses, before returning.

Two soldiers pulled her into a room, snatched her 3-month-old son from her arms and put him on the floor. They searched her clothes for valuables and took her earrings. Another three men came in and began to beat her with guns while the others stripped off her clothes.

One soldier held down her hands, and another put his gun in her mouth. All five men raped her.

When she struggled, they beat her. She could hear her baby crying and was terrified the men would kill him.

When they were finished, they let her get dressed and then dragged her bleeding body outside to the center of the village. Soldiers were dragging other women they had assaulted out of surrounding houses. The men beat S and the other women again, then left them.

S ran back to her house, grabbed her baby and ran. As she fled, she saw soldiers lining men and boys up and shooting them. When she made it to the hills, she looked down and saw her village burning.

SHE NEVER SAW HER SON AGAIN

The soldiers had been harassing T's family for days: Showing up and stealing their food, urinating in their rice, hitting T and, once, stripping off her clothes.

And then one morning in mid-August, five men dragged her husband out of the house, where they slashed his neck. They grabbed her 10-year-old son and dragged him outside; she never saw him again. Her 12-year-old daughter managed to flee.

The soldiers took off T's earrings and nose ring, then stripped off her clothes. When she screamed, they kicked her.

Then they pinned her to the floor. Two men held her while the first man raped her. Then they switched. One man put a gun in her mouth to silence her screams.

Afterward, she bled for two days. Months later, her back still hurts from the attack.

When they finished, they ate the food in her kitchen and stole her chicken and duck. They also dragged away the body of her husband.

She ran into the hills and found her daughter and father. They tried to find safety in neighboring villages, but the military kept showing up. With nowhere to go, they headed toward Bangladesh.

ALL I HAVE LEFT ARE MY WORDS

N's husband was walking down a road in late August when several villagers saw soldiers grab him and drag him into the hills. Later that day, children in the hills came upon his head, along with several other corpses. Soldiers were milling around near the bodies.

N stayed in her house with her 8-year-old daughter for the next few days, unable to stop crying. Then suddenly, around 80 soldiers descended on the village. Five soldiers came to her door and shouted: "Who's inside?"

N was terrified. The men barged in.

One man held her as she screamed and fought. They covered her eyes with tape, and hit her head with a gun. Two held her in place while three others began rifling through her clothing. There was nothing for them to steal; she'd already hidden her valuables.

They ripped her clothes off and beat her in the head with a gun until she blacked out. When she awoke, her vagina was swollen, bleeding and covered in sores. She had clearly been raped; by how many men, she does not know.

She was in too much pain that day to leave the house. She and her daughter fled the next day for Bangladesh. She bled for eight days, and three months later still has trouble urinating.

"I have nothing left," she says, blinking back tears. "All I have left are my words."

SHE BLED FOR SIX DAYS

N, 17, was at home with her parents and siblings in late August when she heard the crackle of gunfire. Suddenly, 10 men burst into the house. They began slashing open sacks of rice looking for valuables.

Then the soldiers tied her hands with rope behind her back and put tape over her mouth.

Five of the men held her frantic family back, hitting them with their guns. They ripped off her clothes, snatched her earrings and took the money she had hidden in her new blouse.

When she tried to protest, they hit her with their guns.

They threw her to the floor. Five men then took turns raping her, while the others helped hold her down.

Her parents were forced to watch. When they screamed, the soldiers beat them. Eventually, they stood in silence as their daughter was assaulted.

After the men left, N's parents untied her and washed her. She bled for six days.

The family left for Bangladesh the next day. N was in too much pain to walk, so her father carried her over the border.

IT WAS JUST ALL PAIN

Around 100 soldiers surrounded A's village one afternoon in late August. A's husband fled, leaving her alone in the house with their 2-year-old son.

Two soldiers came into her house. One soldier threw her baby on the floor, then grabbed A by the neck. Both men slapped her and pointed their guns at her.

They tore off her clothes. She wept and begged them to stop. One of the men took off her earrings. Then they shoved her to the ground, laughing at her.

One soldier pressed his knife to her right hip and cut into her flesh. Both of them punched her in the face.

The men then took turns raping her. She could hear her son crying. She prayed to Allah, terrified the men would kill her and her boy.

"It was just all pain," she says now.

As the soldiers walked out, they fired their guns toward the sky.

After the rape, she couldn't eat for days and struggled to walk. She hid in the nearby hills with her son until she found her husband. Together, the family walked for 14 days until they finally crossed the border into Bangladesh.

TEARING HER FLESH WITH THEIR TEETH

M was at home with her husband, her sister-in-law and her sister-in-law's brother in late August when security forces stormed their village. The husbands fled, leaving M alone in the house with her sister-in-law, who was in the shower.

Three men kicked the door open. They tied M's arms behind her back.

They dragged her sister-in-law out of the shower. They bit her face and body, tearing her flesh with their teeth. All three men raped her, then stabbed her torso and her breasts with their knives, killing her.

One of the men came over to M, stripped her clothes off and took her earrings.

He unzipped his pants, pushed her down onto her back and then raped her. He choked her and punched her in the face and chest, and bit her eyebrow.

She was terrified she would be killed like her sister-in-law. She screamed so loudly that her neighbors came running. The men then fled.

She has no plans to return to Myanmar.

"How can I go where there is all this pain and suffering?" she says.

SHE DOES NOT KNOW HOW THEY DIED

D was at home one evening in late August when she heard noise outside. Her two older sons and husband rushed out of the house, leaving her alone with her 3-year-old boy.

Three men entered her home. She screamed and her son began to cry.

They took her nose ring and earrings, then ripped off her clothes.

One man restrained her arms and held a knife to her hip while the other two men raped her. She feared the men would kill her, so she stifled her screams.

After two hours, the men finally left. When her husband returned, he found her naked. But she was too ashamed to tell him what had happened to her.

She was so swollen and bled so much that she found it difficult to walk for nearly three weeks after the rape.

They fled to another village. While there, people from her village told her that her home had been burned, and that they had seen the dead bodies of her eldest sons. She does not know how they died.

D and her family arrived in Bangladesh in October.

IT WAS NEVER-ENDING

It was late August and K was around four months pregnant when soldiers swarmed her village.

Four men smashed the door open, tied up her husband and began beating and kicking the couple's children. They kicked K's 3-year-old daughter in the head so hard that she died of her injuries three days later.

They dragged K's husband out of the house and took him to a police station.

They snatched the money she had hidden in her blouse and took her earrings. Then they ripped off her clothes.

They hit her face and kicked her back. They tied her up and began to rape her, one after the other. The men kicked her so viciously, she feared the baby inside her would die.

"It was never-ending," she says now.

Just before the men left, they shoved a gun inside her vagina. The pain was excruciating.

The next day, a village leader helped raise the money the soldiers demanded to release K's husband from the police station.

In November, K gave birth to a baby boy. He was two months' premature, and his skinny arms are barely wider than an adult's thumb. K is too malnourished to produce much milk for him, so he is subsisting on sugar water.

SHE FEARED HER BABY WAS DYING

S was pregnant and at home with her family in late August when 20 soldiers surrounded her village. All the men in the area fled, including her husband.

Four soldiers burst into the house, grabbed her two crying toddlers and beat them. She tried to run, but they caught her and dragged her deeper inside the home to a bathing area.

One man threatened her with a gun, another with a knife. They ripped her clothes off, and took her gold earrings and gold chain. They threw her to the floor.

One man held her left arm, one held her right arm and one held down her legs, while the fourth man raped her. Then they switched. All four men raped her. When she screamed, they threatened to shoot and stab her.

They kicked and punched her so hard, she feared the baby inside her was dying. Finally, they left.

After the attack, she felt sharp pains in her belly and bled for a month. For two weeks, she thought the baby had died. Finally, she felt something moving inside her.

Her husband never returned home. She does not know whether he is dead or alive.

IF WE CAN LIVE PEACEFULLY

It was mid-afternoon one day in late August when about 10 men in camouflage uniforms entered M's house. Her three children began to scream and cry. Five men took her husband away, and four forced her out of the house and into the nearby hills.

One of the men held a gun to her. They tore her clothes off and took her earrings. They bit her face and her body and hit her.

They tied her mouth with her own headscarf. And then three of the men held her down while the other man raped her. The attack lasted for hours; all four of the men raped her.

The men eventually released her and she stumbled back to her house. Her husband was not there.

After resting for five days, she took her children and began the three-day journey to Bangladesh. She had to use a walking stick to move her battered body.

Despite the horror she endured, she would consider returning to her homeland - if she is assured of her family's safety.

"If we can live peacefully side by side like we do here in Bangladesh, then I will go back," she says.

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH TORTURE

F was at home in late August when she heard screaming outside. Her husband went to investigate and saw that about 300 soldiers and Buddhist villagers had surrounded the area. The men began burning houses and arresting people. Soldiers separated the men from the women.

About eight soldiers and villagers grabbed F's husband and tied his hands behind his back. They tore off her and her mother's jewelry. Then they took the women outside and set fire to F's house.

Around 100 men took F, her mother and about 20 other women to another village. The soldiers beat them with guns, kicking and slapping them.

Once they reached the next village, the women were forced to lie down on the ground next to each other. The men tied their wrists together with rope and began to rape them.

Ten men raped F, beat her with their guns, kicked her and slapped her. She could hear her mother crying and calling "Allah" as she, too, was raped.

It was dark when the men finally left. F managed to wriggle her wrists free of the rope and ran into a field. In the morning, she returned to search for her mother, but she had vanished. She saw at least five women lying dead on the ground, their throats cut.

She has no idea what has become of her husband. And she cannot imagine returning to her homeland.

"We've had enough torture," she says.

SHE DOES NOT KNOW IF HER HUSBAND IS ALIVE

S was lying in bed with her husband and son after dinner in late August when around 10 soldiers burst into the house. A few took her husband outside. Five stayed behind, and one pointed his gun at her.

She tried to run, but they grabbed her and kicked her back, stomach and chest. They stripped off her clothes and took her necklace and earrings. Three men raped her.

Her young son began to cry. A soldier pointed his gun at the child and he screamed louder.

S was in agony. After the men were finished, they took her outside, naked. Her son followed them. About two dozen other women, also naked, had been dragged outside as well.

The soldiers forced the women to march toward a rice paddy, beating and kicking them as they walked. S felt blood running down her legs. Once they arrived, the men ordered them to lie down. S fought back and soldiers kicked her. She fell to the ground.

Three more soldiers began to rape her.

When at last the assault was over, S fled back toward her house with her son, only to find her home had been burned along with many others. She does not know if her husband is alive.

Good Housekeeping

Golden Berry hollies, dazzling in the winter landscape

TNS

Deciduous holly berries like this possumhaw and the winterberry are loved by birds and available in both red and gold selections.

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

This time of the year everyone is thinking of decking the halls with hollies and their colorful red berries, but you just may want to consider adding a touch of gold. Can you even imagine hollies with bright golden berries? These would show out in the landscape like small trees or shrubs adorned with a thousand little golden lights and the same for the mantle too! My preference, however, would be to see birds celebrating with a Christmas feast.

Here at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, we are like the holly headquarters for the Low Country. We've got the imports, the hybrids, and fantastic natives that most have never seen. Two of my favorites are outstanding deciduous natives, the possumhaw (Ilex decidua) and the winterberry (Ilex verticillata).

The possumhaw is native to 19 states from Texas to Illinois, eastward to Maryland and everything south. The possumhaw has been known to feed nine species of birds including the beloved bobwhite quail. The winterberry, on the other hand, is native over a much larger area, including 33 states and much of Canada. It feeds at least 20 species of birds and has been in cultivation since 1736. That's heirloom status in my book.

Don't let the fact that they are deciduous discourage you from trying them in the landscape; when the leaves diminish or fall the berries are even more dazzling. As you are probably guessing, both the winterberry and the possumhaw have a superior selection in both red and golden berry form.

Finch's Gold is the selection of possumhaw holly we are growing, and your first thought is that it gets its name from a bird you might see devouring the fruit. The truth is, it is named for Bill Finch who discovered it in Mobile, Ala. This terrific plant is cold hardy from zones 5-9 and can form a small tree 12-to-15 feet in height with a spread to 10-feet. We are also growing Warren's Red a superior selection that loads up with uncountable red berries.

Our winterberry hollies are more shrub-like reaching 5-to-8 feet in height. The winterberry is more cold-hardy with zones from 3-9. We are growing Winter Red and Winter Gold both of which offer staggering beauty with their colorful fruit.

Possumhaws and winterberries are easy to grow, and good nurseries usually have them. Regardless of the variety you choose, plant in sun to partial sun and in the same places, you might plant a crape myrtle. Use them to frame entryways for special accents or along driveways and around the patio. Anywhere the landscape looks drab in the winter is an excellent place for the possumhaw or winterberry holly to brighten. It is always a good idea to include a male variety nearby to ensure maximum berry production.

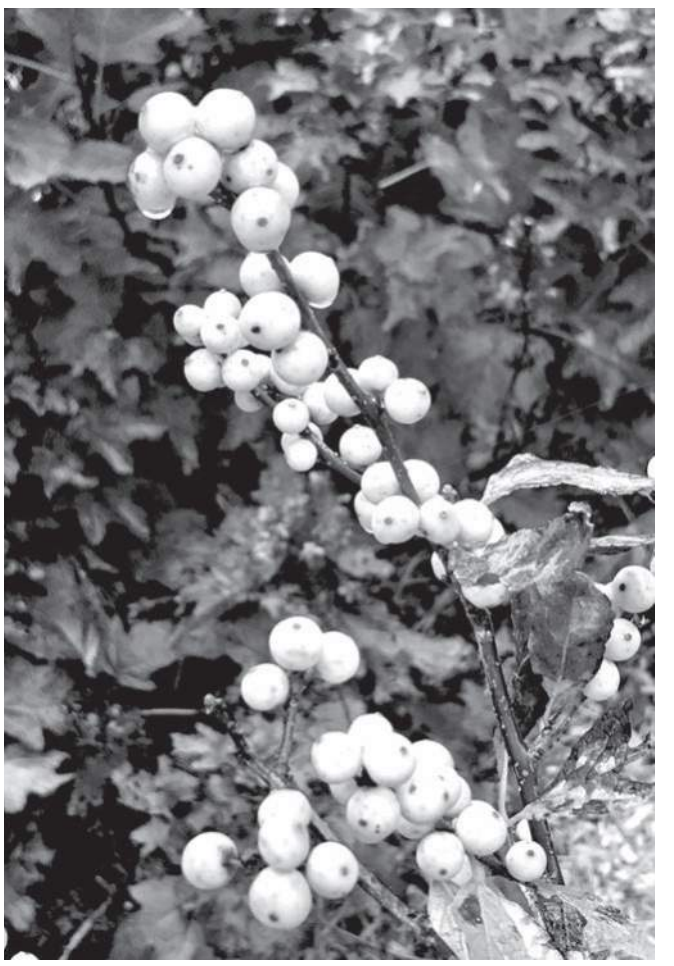
One well-known horticulturist said you could garden for 12 lifetimes and never see an insect or disease bothering the plant. In most years however our berries are stripped by cedar waxwings, American robins, or mockingbirds which always seem to stake a claim. These pests will most likely cause a family celebration and bring out the cameras.

This winter and spring when you are at your garden center choosing new trees or shrubs, look for hollies loaded with fruit and bearing no leaves you just may strike gold with a great selection of one of our native species.

Norman Winter is director of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, and author of "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him at: @CGBGgardenguru.

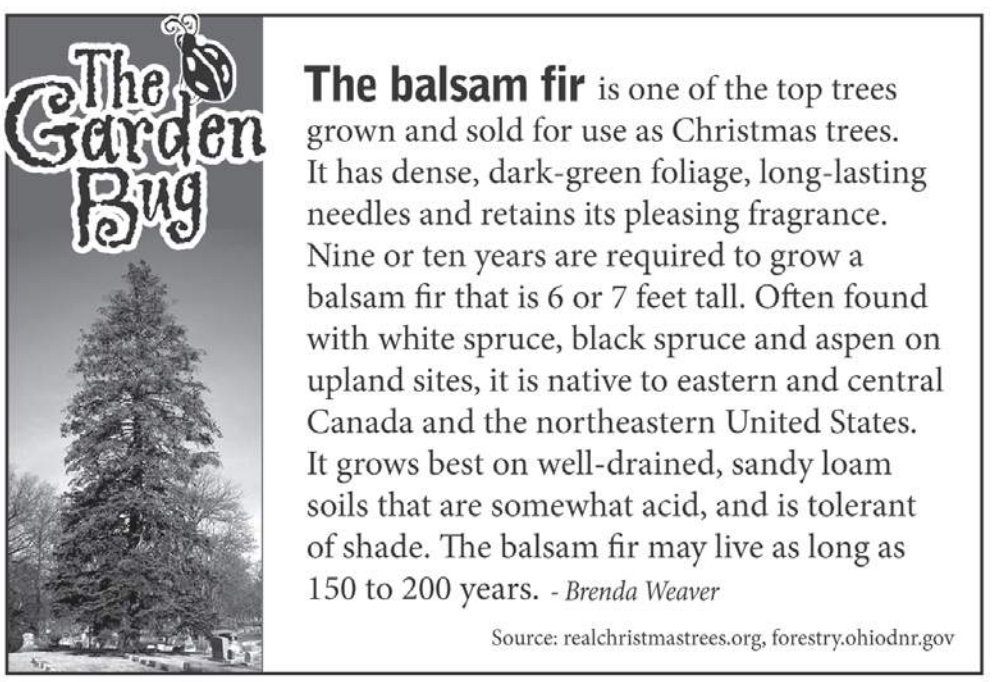
TNS

Though the leaves haven't fallen this Fincha s Gold possumhaw holly is already showing out with golden berries.



TNS

Winter Gold winterberry holly is cold hardy from zones 3-9 and develops into a shrub reaching 8-feet in height.


The Garden Bug
The balsam fir is one of the top trees grown and sold for use as Christmas trees. It has dense, dark-green foliage, long-lasting needles and retains its pleasing fragrance. Nine or ten years are required to grow a balsam fir that is 6 or 7 feet tall. Often found with white spruce, black spruce and aspen on upland sites, it is native to eastern and central Canada and the northeastern United States. It grows best on well-drained, sandy loam soils that are somewhat acid, and is tolerant of shade. The balsam fir may live as long as 150 to 200 years. - Brenda Weaver
Source: realchristmastrees.org, forestry.ohiodnr.gov

© 2017 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Life & Style

Surrounded by scandal, Globes turn to old favs & fresh faces

NEW YORK (AP)—Guillermo del Toro's Cold War-era fairytale "The Shape of Water" swam away with a leading seven Golden Globes nominations on Monday and the HBO drama "Big Little Lies" came away with six nods. But nobody made landing a Globe nomination look easier than Christopher Plummer.

Just two weeks after shooting his scenes in Ridley Scott's "All the Money in the World," Plummer was nominated for best supporting actor—a nod that was once considered a possibility for the actor he replaced, Kevin Spacey. An unfinished version of the film was screened last week for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which puts on the Globes.

"They pulled off a miraculous feat over the last month and I'm delighted to have been a part of this unique experience," Plummer said in a statement.

The nomination for Plummer—which was joined by nods for Scott's directing and Michelle Williams as best actress—was just the latest, and most last-minute, twist in an awards season that has been rocked by the industry's continuing sexual harassment scandals. Even Monday's nominations, announced from Beverly Hills, California, were, as is customary, carried live on the "Today" show, which recently fired Matt Lauer after allegations of sexual misconduct.

As the most prominent platform yet in Hollywood's awards season to confront the post-Harvey Weinstein landscape, the Globes seemed eager to turn the page not just in its love for "All the Money in the World" but by shunning previous favorites like "House of Cards" and "Transparent." The latter remains in limbo following sexual harassment allegations against star Jeffrey Tambor, charges that he has denied.

Instead, the Globes lavished nominations on some tried-and-true favorites—Meryl Streep scored her 31st Globe nod—and some new faces, like the 21-year-old breakthrough of "Call Me By Your Name," Timothee Chalamet.

In what's has been a wide-open Oscar race so far, several films followed closely behind "The Shape of Water," including Steven Spielberg's Pentagon Papers drama "The Post," with six nominations, including best actress for Streep and best actor for Tom Hanks. Martin McDonagh's revenge drama "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" also got a major boost in the nominations announced Monday in Beverly Hills, California, with six nods, including best actress for Frances McDormand and supporting actor for Sam Rockwell.

Along with "The Shape of Water," ''Three Billboards" and "The Post," the nominees for best drama were the tender young romance "Call Me By Your Name" (which also landed a nod for Armie Hammer) and Christopher Nolan's World War II epic "Dunkirk."

FIERY CHRISTMAS

In this Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017 photo released by Santa Barbara County Fire Department firefighters knock down flames as they advance on homes atop Shepherd Mesa Road in Carpinteria, Calif. Ash fell like snow and heavy smoke had residents gasping for air Monday as a huge Southern California wildfire exploded in size again, becoming the fifth largest in state history and driving celebrities from a wealthy hillside enclave. Officials handed out masks to those who stayed behind in Montecito, an exclusive community about 75 miles (120 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles that's home to stars such as Oprah Winfrey, Jeff Bridges and Drew Barrymore. Actor Rob Lowe wore a mask as he live-streamed his family evacuating Sunday from their smoke-shrouded home.

AP

#MeToo spotlight increasingly pointed at past Trump conduct

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump sailed past a raft of allegations of sexual misconduct in last year's presidential election.

Now the national #MeToo spotlight is turning back to Trump and his past conduct. Several of his accusers are urging Congress to investigate his behavior, and a number of Democratic lawmakers are demanding his resignation.

With each day seeming to bring new headlines that force men from positions of power, the movement to expose sexual harassment has forced an unwelcome conversation on the White House. In a heated exchange with reporters in the White House briefing room on Monday, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders steadfastly dismissed accusations against the Republican president and suggested the issue had already been litigated in Trump's favor on Election Day.

But to Trump's accusers, the rising #MeToo movement is an occasion to ensure he is at last held accountable.

"It was heartbreaking last year. We're private citizens and for us to put ourselves out there to try and show America who this man is and how he views women, and for them to say, 'Eh, we don't care,' it hurt," Samantha Holvey said Monday. The former beauty queen claimed that Trump ogled her and other Miss USA pageant contestants in their dressing room in 2006.

"Let's try round two," she said. "The environment's different. Let's try again."

Holvey was one of four women to make her case against Trump on Monday, both in an NBC interview and then in a news conference. Rachel Crooks, a former Trump Tower receptionist who said the celebrity businessman kissed her on the mouth in 2006 without consent, called for Congress to "put aside party affiliations and investigate Trump's history of sexual misconduct."

Mario Batali steps down after sexual misconduct allegations

Celebrity chef Mario Batali stepped away from his restaurant empire and cooking show "The Chew" on Monday as he said that reports of sexual misconduct "match up" to his behavior.

Food news website Eater New York published an article Monday that said four women accused the chef of inappropriate touching. One of the women said that Batali groped her chest after wine spilled on her shirt. Another said he grabbed her from behind and held her tightly against his body. Eater said the four women, three of whom worked for Batali, asked to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation.

The sexual misconduct allegations are the latest to come against powerful men in entertainment, politics and other industries. Batali, who has appeared on "The Chew" since its debut six years ago, oversees several restaurants in a handful of cities.

Batali apologized in a statement Monday, and said that "much of the behavior described does, in fact, match up with ways I have acted."

A representative for his restaurant business, Batali & Bastianich Hospitality Group, said an employee reported inappropriate behavior by Batali in October. The company told Eater it was the first formal complaint against Batali and that he was reprimanded and required to attend training.

The group's restaurants include Babbo in New York, Carnevino Italian Steakhouse in Las Vegas and Pizzeria Mozza in Los Angeles. It's also a partner in Eataly, an Italian food hall and grocer, which has locations in New York, Chicago and Boston. In 2012, Batali and his business partners agreed to pay more than $6 million to settle two separate lawsuits from restaurant workers who said they were deprived of tips or overtime pay.

Batali, who is 57, was well known in culinary circles, taking jobs early in his career as a sous chef at the Four Seasons in Santa Barbara and San Francisco. ***(AP)***

Merriam-Webster's word of the year for 2017: 'Feminism'

NEW YORK (AP)—This may or may not come as a surprise: Merriam-Webster's word of the year for 2017 is "feminism."

Yes, it's been a big year or two or 100 for the word. In 2017, lookups for feminism increased 70 percent over 2016 on Merriam-Webster.com and spiked several times after key events, lexicographer Peter Sokolowski, the company's editor at large, told The Associated Press ahead of Tuesday's annual word reveal.

There was the Women's March on Washington in January, along with sister demonstrations around the globe. And heading into the year was Democrat Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and references linking her to white-clad suffragettes, along with her loss to President Donald Trump, who once boasted about grabbing women.

The "Me Too" movement rose out of Harvey Weinstein's dust, and other "silence breakers" brought down rich and famous men of media, politics and the entertainment worlds.

Feminism has been in Merriam-Webster's annual Top 10 for the last few years, including sharing word-of-the-year honors with other "isms" in 2015. Socialism, fascism, racism, communism, capitalism and terrorism rounded out the bunch. Surreal was the word of the year last year.

"The word feminism was being use in a kind of general way," Sokolowski said by phone from the company's headquarters in Springfield, Massachusetts. "The feminism of this big protest, but it was also used in a kind of specific way: What does it mean to be a feminist in 2017? Those kinds of questions are the kinds of things, I think, that send people to the dictionary."

Feminism's roots are in the Latin for "woman" and the word "female," which dates to 14th century English. Sokolowski had to look no further than his company's founder, Noah Webster, for the first dictionary reference, in 1841, which isn't all that old in the history of English.

"It was a very new word at that time," Sokolowski said. "His definition is not the definition that you and I would understand today. His definition was, 'The qualities of females,' so basically feminism to Noah Webster meant femaleness. We do see evidence that the word was used in the 19th century in a medical sense, for the physical characteristics of a developing teenager, before it was used as a political term, if you will."

Webster added the word in revisions to his "An American Dictionary of the English Language." They were his last. He died in 1843. He also added the word terrorism that year.

"We had no idea he was the original dictionary source of feminism. We don't have a lot of evidence of what he was looking at," Sokolowski said.

Today, Merriam-Webster defines feminism as the "theory of the political, economic and social equality of the sexes" and "organized activities on behalf of women's rights and interests."

Another spike for the word feminism in 2017 occurred in February, after Kellyanne Conway spoke at the Conservative Political Action Committee.

"It's difficult for me to call myself a feminist in the classic sense because it seems to be very anti-male and it certainly seems to be very pro-abortion. I'm neither anti-male or pro-abortion," she said. "There's an individual feminism, if you will, that you make your own choices. ... I look at myself as a product of my choices, not a victim of my circumstances. And to me, that's what conservative feminism is all about."

She was applauded, and she sent many people to their dictionaries, Sokolowski said. The company would not release actual lookup numbers.

Other events that drew interest to the word feminism was the popular Hulu series, "The Handmaid's Tale," and the blockbuster movie, "Wonder Woman," directed by a woman, Patty Jenkins, Sokolowski said.

Merriam-Webster had nine runners-up, in no particular order:

■ Complicit , competitor Dictionary.com's word of the year.

■ Recuse , in reference to Jeff Sessions and the Russia investigation.

■ Empathy , which hung high all year.

■ Dotard , used by Kim Jong-un to describe Trump.

■ Syzygy , the nearly straight-line configuration of three celestial bodies, such as the sun, moon and earth during a solar or lunar eclipse.

■ Gyro , which can be pronounced three different ways, a phenom celebrated in a Jimmy Fallon sketch on "The Tonight Show."

■ Federalism , which Lindsey Graham referred to in discussing the future of the Affordable Care Act.

■ Hurricane , which Sokolowski suspects is because people are confused about wind speed.

■ Gaffe , such as what happened at the Academy Awards when the wrong best picture winner was announced. That was a go-to word for the media, Sokolowski said.

Late-night host Kimmel holds son, pleads for health care

Kimmel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jimmy Kimmel held his baby son as he returned to his late-night son from a week off for the boy's heart surgery.

Kimmel was crying from the first moment of his monologue Monday night as he pleaded with Congress to restore and improve children's health coverage, a cause he has championed since his son Billy was born with a heart defect in April.

Billy needed one surgery just after his birth and had a follow-up operation last week.

Kimmel kept up his ardent advocacy Monday night, urging Congress to restore the Children's Health Insurance Program, which has been left unfunded and stuck in a political stalemate since September.

Kimmel said it's "disgusting" that Congress is putting tax cuts for millionaires ahead of the lives of children.

High school student carries collapsed marathoner to victory

DALLAS (AP)—In just 24 hours, her face and name have become world famous for what's seen as a supreme act of sportsmanship.

Dallas-area high school student Ariana Luterman was finishing the anchor leg of a girls' relay in Sunday's Dallas Marathon when she saw the legs of the women's marathon leader, Dr. Chandler Self, start to buckle from exhaustion yards from the finish line.

Acting apparently instinctively, Luterman helped Self to her feet and half-carried her to the finish line, giving the New York City psychiatrist the women's championship. Self's family later told her she'd been credited with the win.

AP

In this Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, photo, Ariana Luterman, 17, back, helps Chandler Self, center, at the finish line during the BMW Dallas Marathon in Dallas, as Shalane Flanagan, four-time Olympian, left, watches.

Self said Luterman came alongside her two miles from the finish and encouraged her to finish the race. Video of the finish has gone viral.

Man keeps wife in the dark about new 'business partner'

DEAR ABBY: My husband met a gal 33 years younger than he is at a doctor's office. It seems they "became close," so they went off and bought real estate together in another state. They spend weeks at a time together there alone.

When they are both here in town, they have "business" meetings several times a week. I am not allowed to attend, know when they take place or even ask what was discussed. They never have phone conversations while I'm near, and their texts to each other are "none of my business."

My husband's words: "I don't know why you're so mad; you're just jealous." Your thoughts, please?

PEEVED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PEEVED: You live in a community property state. Half of your husband's share of whatever property he and this woman bought together belongs to you.

My first thought is your husband is having a fling and lying about not knowing why you are angry. He's right that you are jealous. You have every right to be.

My second thought is that you should consult an attorney ASAP. I don't know how much you know about your husband's finances, but a forensic accountant can help you unearth any assets he may be hiding or has already buried. After that, it will be up to you to decide whether you want to continue in a marriage with someone who would treat you so shabbily.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I treated our 24-year-old granddaughter to dinner and a historical city tour. When we stopped by to pick her up, she came out of the house wearing a skin-tight top that laced up the front, with a 3-inch gap from top to bottom and no bra.

My first reaction was to ask her to change, thinking it was highly inappropriate. Her grandfather thought we should just let it go, so we went out for the evening. Nothing was mentioned regarding her attire, but I was extremely uncomfortable. What is your opinion?

BUTTONED UP IN INDIANA

DEAR BUTTONED UP: Your granddaughter is an adult. For you to have asked her to change clothes would have been awkward for everyone concerned. While her choice of outfit may have been revealing, if there was any embarrassment, it should not have been yours. If you prefer she dress more modestly when she's with you, the next time you invite her to go someplace, say so.

DEAR ABBY: Allow me to offer a tip for those men about to pop the "big question" to their girlfriends: Let your fiancee pick out the ring style she will be wearing for the rest of her life. Arrange with a jeweler to have a tray of rings in different styles in your price range. Then present a ring with the proposal with the understanding it can be exchanged.

WISE SOUTHERNER

DEAR SOUTHERNER: This is a subject that has been addressed in my column several times. A practical way to handle it is for the man to talk to the jeweler about what he can afford to spend beforehand, so the stones will be available to display to his fiancee, as well as a variety of settings from which she can choose. And, if none are to her liking, she might prefer the option of designing her own setting. Many brides do.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Dear Santa,
Attached is my Christmas list for this year.
Last year I did not receive several items from my list.
For your convenience, I have grouped those items together on page 12. Please check them carefully, and include them with the rest of my loot this year.
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH THIS GUY. HE'S GOTTEN SLOPPY WITHOUT ANY COMPETITION.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

GOOD EVENING. I'M TONIGHT'S CHRISTMAS DREAM
A LUMP OF COAL?
I JUST HAVE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS
SHOOT
WHAT'S YOUR STOCKING SIZE?
THIS IS NOT GOOD

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SHE WANTS YOU TO WRITE A BOOK FOR HER BY CHRISTMAS??
YEP.
TAP TAP
WHAT'S IT ABOUT?
SOME TEENAGERS. AND THEY HAVE AN ADVENTURE. OR SOMETHING.
TYPE TAP
LOOK. THE DEADLINE IS INSANE, BUT IT'S A LOT OF MONEY.
TAP TAP
WELL, YOU'D BETTER GET STARTED!
PSSH. I WROTE HALF OF CHAPTER TWO SINCE YOU ASKED "WHAT'S IT ABOUT?"

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THE 9-TO-5 JOB HAS BEEN FILLED. BUT WE HAVE AN OPENING ON OUR GRAVE-YARD SHIFT.
DO YOU HAVE ANY TROUBLE SLEEPING DURING THE DAY?
NO. AND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, JUST ASK MY LAST EMPLOYER.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

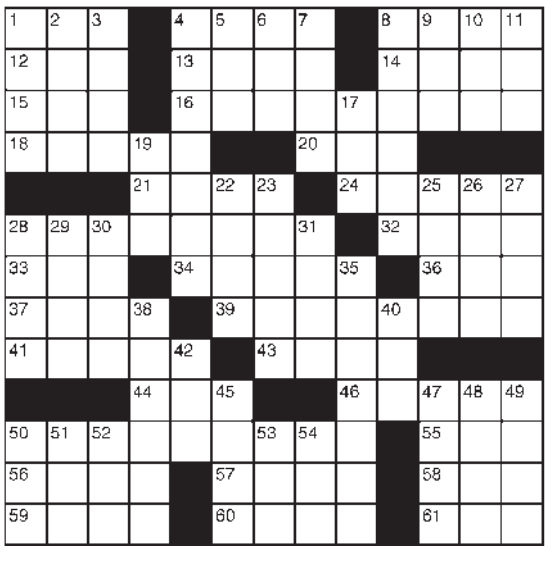
1 Knight's address
4 Decorate
8 Martial art
12 College URL ender
13 Greek vowel
14 "Young Frankenstein" role
15 PC key
16 Small candles
18 India's first P.M.
20 Work unit
21 Exile isle
24 Lucky number
28 Beverage wagons
32 Ceremony
33 Witty one
34 Ploys
36 LAX info
37 On the rocks
39 Kitchen cloth
41 "Ta-da!"
43 Cupid's specialty
44 Nay undoer
46 Boisterous
50 Kitchen whistler
55 Anger
56 Scarce
57 Chinese dynasty
58 Gaiety
59 "The Haj" author
60 Lend a hand
61 Type measures

DOWN

1 Playwright O'Casey
2 Not busy
3 Babe of baseball
4 In name only
5 Fish eggs
6 Call — day
7 Like ganders
8 Small whiskey glass
9 "This tastes terrible!"
10 Speck
11 Hosp. areas
17 1040 org.
19 Fun and games
22 Very dry, as wine
23 Confused
25 Panorama
26 Diminutive suffix
27 "Hud" Oscar winner
28 Ninny
29 Apiece
30 Screenwriter James
31 Line of fashion?
35 Stockpile
38 Ducklings' dads
40 Granada gold
42 CBS logo
45 Engrave
47 Spouse
48 Bongo, for one
49 Longings
50 Capote nickname
51 Corn spike
52 "Exodus" hero
53 Commonest English word
54 Texter's chuckle

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Swift, 28; Jamie Foxx, 50; Wendie Malick, 67; Christopher Plummer, 88.

Happy Birthday: Take on the role of a leader and do whatever it takes to bring about change. Your aggressive attitude will spark others to join your fight. Personal change will give you the wherewithal to follow your dreams and avoid being held back by anyone trying to combat the changes you need to make in order to reach your goal. Your numbers are 8, 13, 20, 24, 33, 41, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep your goals in mind no matter what else crops up. Knowing what you want to accomplish will help you avoid anyone trying to interfere with your success. Feeling good about personal changes you make should be your priority. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take advantage of any promising opportunities that encourage you to learn, gather valuable information or find a secure foothold in your career. Protect your ideas, possessions, money and personal information. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Err on the side of caution when dealing with others. You'll be misinterpreted or end up in a compromising position if you let someone speak on your behalf. Concentrate on making positive changes that help you avoid being misrepresented. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Expand your interests and share your thoughts and feelings. Nurture important relationships and extend your ideas to people who can help you get ahead. Networking functions or helping those in need of help will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A face-off will lead to dissatisfaction. Look for alternative ways to avoid an altercation. Focus on what you can do to help any situation you face instead of making it worse. Physical activities will help ease your stress. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Put greater emphasis on your relationships with others, especially when dealing with peers, relatives or anyone who can affect your personal security. Knowing what you are up against and keeping a calm exterior will make a difference. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Make change count. If you want to do something, stop procrastinating and follow through. Talk to whomever you need approval from or find an expert to help you make the right choices. If you remain in control, you will reach your destination successfully. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Go over your personal finances, medical records and any documents, contracts or legal matters that may need updating before the year comes to a close. Staying on top of your affairs will bring you peace of mind. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* It's your turn to put you and your plans first and foremost. Do whatever it takes to bring about the changes that will give you the freedom to be who and what you want to become. Live in the moment. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Learn and hone your skills and apply what you know and do well in order to get ahead. An unexpected opportunity will give you an inside look at what you want to achieve. Focus on and pursue your goals. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Emotions will be difficult to control. Avoid getting into a spat over money matters. A settlement, legal concern or promise will escalate a situation. Take care of the paperwork and responsibilities. Be realistic about what you can and cannot do. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Wrap your head around ways that you can make your cash grow. Taking care of personal business will help pave the way to an easy turnaround when tax time comes along. Don't leave anything to chance. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, progressive and pioneering. You are enthusiastic and relentless.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				5				
	3		7		4			
	7	2				6		
	9						6	
7								5
8	6					4	2	7
	8		1	4			7	
	5		3	2			9	
	2	4	9	8	7	5	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	5	8	2	9	4	1	3	7
1	2	4	7	8	3	6	9	5
9	3	7	1	6	5	8	4	2
3	9	5	8	1	2	7	6	4
8	1	6	5	4	7	3	2	9
4	7	2	9	3	6	5	1	8
7	6	3	4	2	8	9	5	1
2	8	9	6	5	1	4	7	3
5	4	1	3	7	9	2	8	6

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FATS DOMINO (1928-2017) **Solution: 13 letters**

S	A	N	N	O	D	A	M	P	S	D	N	A	T	S
T	Ⓗ	Y	D	A	E	R	S	I	V	L	E	M	O	H
R	H	Ⓐ	B	Y	D	A	L	A	D	O	N	I	C	A
O	A	E	Ⓛ	A	S	L	K	N	I	P	T	A	I	M
N	R	B	F	Ⓛ	A	N	U	O	E	B	L	S	S	E
G	R	A	E	A	L	E	A	B	E	L	Y	E	U	R
G	I	N	L	B	T	O	R	E	I	U	A	I	M	J
N	S	D	O	M	R	M	R	D	L	E	D	G	Y	H
I	O	A	H	A	Y	A	A	D	N	R	N	O	R	E
V	N	V	W	J	N	C	N	N	N	A	O	O	A	A
O	H	E	M	A	F	M	G	T	O	A	M	W	M	V
L	O	T	T	A	L	I	A	U	O	L	K	L	E	E
B	O	O	G	I	E	K	L	R	E	N	A	C	S	N
E	L	O	E	R	C	A	N	A	I	S	I	U	O	L
E	T	T	E	N	I	O	T	N	A	E	T	O	R	R

© 2017 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 12/13

Adonica, Anatole, Andrea, Anola, Antoinette, Antonio, Band, Blue, Boogie, Cadillac, Creole, Dave, Elvis, Fame, Guest, Hall, Harrison, Heaven, Home, Jambalaya, Just, Lady, Lotta, Louisiana, Loving, Madonna, Marie, Monday, Music, New Orleans, Piano, Pink, Ready, Rock and Roll, Rosemary, Shame, Stands, Strong, The Fat Man, Walk, Whole, Woogie

Yesterday's Answer: Paralegal

Purchase the NEW **Treasury 30** in time for the holidays! Order online at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Manager: $1,500-$2,000/mo. 4-year engineering college degree and at least 2 years of management experience in a construction company are required. Email resume to betocorp@hanmisaipan.com.

---

1 Photographer or assistant: 2 years experience preferred, but not required. Compensation is negotiable based on experience. Email resume to summerglowphoto@gmail.com.

share the power of a wish℠
MAKE-A-WISH®

"I want to be a firefighter!"
BJ Belacora, 6 yrs.

Visit us at:
Make-A-Wish Guam
590 South Marine Corps Drive. ITC Bldg, Suite 109
Tamuning, GU 9691303507
Tel: (670) 483-9474
Email: info@guam.wish.org
www.guam.wish.org

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

Looking to hire U.S. or Visa qualified workers for the following position:

MECHANICS NEEDED ASAP

Minimum 2-yrs experience with gas engines. Certification and experience a plus. Pay based on experience. Transportation included.

Call 671 6880744 for more information or email your resume to quijano.jennifer@gmail.com.
Fleet company is in Guam.
Police and court clearance required.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ELIZABETH TORRES SANTOS Petitioner,	)	FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0400
vs.	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
JEFF P. SANTOS Respondent,	)	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after services of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 506557 CK Saipan, MP, 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 12th day of December, 2017.

/s/ Clerk of Court

WANTED TO BUY
■ Farm Land at San Roque (5000sqm. to 10000sqm.)
■ Wet Land
Please call 287-1388 (West Guerrero)

Aon Insurance Micronesia Inc.
is in need of the following positions:

Accounting Clerk
- High school diploma is required. College preferred.
- Minimum 2 – 3 years exp in basic cashiering or basic accounting
- Excellent customer service
- Able to manage multiple tasks and deal with difficult people
- Be able to demonstrate initiative and ability to work with others
- Excel spreadsheet experience
- Insurance Experience a plus

Customer Service Representative
- High school diploma is required and some college preferred
- Strong selling skills
- Strong organizational skills including time management
- Assertive and motivating individual
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- P&C Insurance License or insurance experience preferred

Qualified applicants may submit their resume and credentials to mike.conner@aon.com
No Phone Calls Please.

AON
An Equal Opportunity Employer.

WHERE CAN YOUR CAREER TAKE YOU?

DFS

EXCITING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH DFS SAIPAN

WE ARE LOOKING FOR DYNAMIC INDIVIDUALS WHO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE, VALUE, INTEGRITY AND TEAM WORK.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT T-GALLERIA
- Personal Shopper, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721069)
- Concierge, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721070)
- Lounge Attendant, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721068)
- Sales Associate, Tiffany, Part-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721046)
- Sales Associate, Fashion, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721085)
- Beauty Advisor, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721087)
- Vault Coordinator, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721088)
- HR Specialist, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721083)

POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
- Sales Associate, Luxury, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721073)
- Sales Associate, Fashion, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721078)

POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT KANOA RESORT
- Sales Associate, Kanoa Resort, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721086)

Closing Date – December 22, 2017
To apply for the positions, visit
WWW.APPLY.ATDFS.COM
Please indicate the Ref Number

Don't have a computer?
Scan this barcode and apply using your smart phone today!

THE TRAVELER'S LUXURY DEPARTMENT STORE
ABU DHABI | AUCKLAND | BALI | CAIRNS | GUAM | HAWAII | HONG KONG | JAKARTA
LOS ANGELES | MACAU | MEDAN | MUMBAI | NEW DELHI | NEW YORK | OKINAWA
SAIPAN | SAN FRANCISCO | SINGAPORE | SYDNEY | CAMBODIA | VENICE
DFSGROUP.COM

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper.
Please call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT Solution: Take a tip from me

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

WHATZIT® 2017 www.whatzit.com Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Stanton joins Judge as Yankees' Towers of Power

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Giancarlo Stanton eased his 6-foot-6 frame into a pinstriped No. 27 jersey, ready to join 6-foot-7 Aaron Judge as the Towers of Power on the resurgent New York Yankees.

"They're winners," Stanton said after his trade from the Miami Marlins to New York was finalized Monday. "They're young, and they're in a good position to win for a long time, and I lost for a long time. So I want to change that dynamic and be a winner."

New York sent second baseman Starlin Castro and a pair of minor leaguers to the Marlins for the NL MVP, also giving up right-hander Jorge Guzman and infielder Jose Devers. The Yankees became just the fourth team in big league history with the reigning home run champions in each league, joining Hank Greenberg and Ralph Kiner of the 1947 Pirates, Joe DiMaggio and Johnny Mize of the 1949 Yankees, and Mike Schmidt and Dick Allen of the 1975 Phillies.

Stanton joined a team that reached Game 7 of the AL Championship Series against Houston led by Judge and fellow young sluggers Gary Sanchez and Greg Bird. The Yankees expect top infield prospect Gleyber Torres to join the big league team next season.

"New York's a marquee town, and I think it's important to have some marquee players," Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner said. "But more important than that, I think it's important to have veteran players that could be mentors for the young kids."

Stanton, a 28-year-old who like Judge plays right field, is owed $295 million over the final decade of his record $325 million, 13-year contract. The payroll-slashing Marlins, with new CEO and former Yankees star Derek Jeter presiding over the team's fourth roster purge in two decades, will send $30 million to the Yankees if Stanton doesn't exercise his right to opt out of the deal after the 2020 season: $5 million each on July 1 and Oct. 1 in 2026, 2027 and 2028. Under a change in baseball's new labor contract, that money will be prorated for the luxury tax and Stanton will count as $22 million annually.

AP

New Yankee Giancarlo Stanton answers questions during a press conference at the Major League Baseball winter meetings in Orlando, Fla., Monday, Dec. 11, 2017.

"It's a win-win for both sides," Marlins president of baseball operations Michael Hill said. "Opportunity for him to start fresh, and an opportunity for us to gain needed flexibility."

Stanton led the majors with 59 home runs and 132 RBI last season, and Judge was second in the majors with 52 homers. The daunting duo figures to create must-see BP, and new Yankees manager Aaron Boone isn't sure yet who will play right or left, figuring they also will see time at designated hitter.

"A 10-year commitment to any player, any position, should be a concern for the owner, without a doubt," Steinbrenner maintained, "but having say that, he's 28 and in great shape, and I think there's going to be many, many years."

Stanton's contract includes a no-trade provision, and last week he turned down prospective deals to St. Louis and San Francisco. He told the Marlins he was willing to accept trades only to the Yankees, his hometown Los Angeles Dodgers, the Astros and Chicago Cubs.

"I would have been putting it over the hump rather than jumping into a team already prepared to be there," he said.

He wore a light blue suit, white-and-blue herringbone-pattern dress shirt and black monk shoes, ready to talk business and baseball. Having grown up in Southern California, going to the Giants was a challenging concept.

"I wouldn't base a decision off that, but also I wouldn't want to go to a team that they disliked the most—and wasn't sure if they were going to beat that team, either," Stanton said.

New York hasn't had a losing record since 1992. The Marlins haven't had a winning season since Stanton made his big league debut in 2010.

"He spends his Octobers in Europe," said Stanton's agent, Joel Wolfe. "It was killing him."

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman spoke briefly with Hill about Stanton at last month's GM meetings but didn't move forward, wanting to save DH at-bats in case New York added Shohei Ohtani. But the Japanese pitcher/outfielder eliminated all East Coast teams in early December and talks with the Hill resumed.

"I felt maybe Wednesday of last week I thought it was not going to happen," Cashman said. "And then he re-engaged me Thursday."

Stanton didn't want to be part of Marlins' rebuilding

MIAMI—Derek Jeter says when his ownership group took over the Miami Marlins in October, he thought Giancarlo Stanton would be with the team in 2018.

Stanton says Marlins officials threatened to keep him for the rest of his career.

In the end, Miami dealt the National League MVP to the New York Yankees. The trade was made because Stanton didn't want to be part of the Marlins' latest rebuilding, Jeter said Monday.

Jeter said the deal with his former team was the best one available to the Marlins, giving them much-needed financial flexibility and upgrading a weak farm system. The Marlins' new CEO made his comments shortly before Stanton held a news conference at baseball's winter meetings in Lake Buena Vista to discuss a trade being celebrated in New York but panned by beleaguered Marlins fans.

Jeter wants to reduce his revenue-starved franchise's payroll by at least 20 percent to $90 million or less, and Stanton will make $25 million next year. But trading him wasn't a given, Jeter said.

"I told him, `When we acquired this team, our thoughts were that you were going to be with us," Jeter said. "I relayed to him we wanted him to be a part of the organization, but it's his choice. He said he wanted to move on. There were three great options for him, and he chose which one he wanted to go to."

Stanton had a no-trade clause in his record $325 million, 13-year contract, for which he is owed $295 million over the next 10 seasons. Last week he turned down prospective trades to St. Louis and San Francisco before accepting the Yankees' deal.

At Stanton's news conference, the All-Star right fielder confirmed he opted to move on from Miami in a meeting with Jeter.

"We spoke about the direction of the team," Stanton said. "I wanted us to go forward. I thought our lineup was legit, and we needed help with our pitchers, and we needed to add rather than subtract. The way they wanted to go was to subtract. So I let that be known that I didn't want to be part of another rebuild, another losing season, and that's almost a guaranteed losing season."

Stanton never played on a winning team in eight years with the Marlins, and he said they threatened to keep him for the rest of his career if he didn't accept a trade to the Cardinals or Giants. But he wasn't swayed.

"It doesn't matter what the dynamic was," he said with a stern expression. "You're not going to force me to do anything."

Stanton said he considered the threat unfair.

"Yeah, after being a part of the organization for so long, and everything I've done there," he said.

In an Instagram post, Stanton thanked Marlins fans and the organization, but he also referred to the "roller coaster years" under previous owner Jeffrey Loria.

Ronaldo vs Neymar in Champions League

NYON, Switzerland (AP)—Real Madrid versus Paris Saint-Germain. Cristiano Ronaldo versus Neymar. Historic achievement versus burning ambition.

Two-time defending Champions League winner Madrid was drawn Monday to play the tournament's standout team in the last 16, made possible because the 12-time champions finished second in their group while PSG won its group.

"They (PSG) are really very strong in every department of the field," Madrid director Emilio Butragueno said. "But I have to underline, we are the holders and our players, they always rise to the occasion."

PSG bought Neymar from Barcelona for a record 222 million euro ($262 million) fee in the offseason with a specific aim of winning a first European title. Madrid won six European Cups before PSG was even formed in 1970.

"As I always say, we must be ready to play any team and we will be ready," PSG president Nasser al-Khelaifi said in a statement on the club's website.

Neymar scored in five straight wins as PSG finished ahead of Bayern Munich in its group, finishing with a competition record of 25 goals in the group stage.

Ronaldo scored in all six of Madrid's matches to set another Champions League record.

Barcelona, which leads the Spanish league unbeaten despite the loss of Neymar, was drawn to face Chelsea in a meeting of recent champions. The English club is one of the few opponents Lionel Messi has failed to score against.

With eight former winners in the lineup, another clash of European champions pits Liverpool against Porto.

Also, it was: Basel vs. Manchester City; Sevilla vs. Manchester United; Juventus vs. Tottenham; Bayern Munich vs. Besiktas; and Shakhtar Donetsk vs. Roma.

The first legs will be played from Feb. 13-21, with the return matches from March 6-14.

The final will be played at the Olympic Stadium in Kiev, Ukraine, on May 26.

Madrid and PSG met in the group stage two seasons ago when the French team's leader was Zlatan Ibrahimovic. They drew 0-0 in Paris and Madrid won 1-0 at home.

Durant leads short-handed Warriors past Portland

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— Kevin Durant had 28 points, nine rebounds, five assists and three blocked shots, leading the short-handed Golden State Warriors past the sluggish Portland Trail Blazers 111-104 on Monday night.

Klay Thompson overcame a cold shooting start to score 24 points as Golden State played without two-time MVP Stephen Curry, who is nursing a sprained right ankle and missed his third straight game. Draymond Green sat out with a sore right shoulder while starting center Zaza Pachulia was sidelined for his second game in a row because of soreness in his left shoulder.

Damian Lilliard scored a season-high 39 points with five 3-pointers playing back home in Oakland. He hit a 3-pointer late in the first half with Durant in his face and pumped his arm to celebrate.

Durant, who earned Western Conference Player of the Week honors on Monday, shot 11 for 21 and Nick Young contributed 12 points in 13 minutes off the bench before leaving with a concussion in the third quarter.

David West scored in double figures over consecutive games for the first time with the Warriors and his first since 2015-16 for San Antonio.

Rookie Jordan Bell scored in double figures for the second time with 11 points, while Omri Casspi and Shaun Livingston also started for the defending champions, who were coming off a 6-0 road trip. It marked the franchise's first time doing so in that long of a stretch away from home.

Now, the Warriors will get to stay home for almost the entire rest of the year except for a trip to face the Lakers on Dec. 18.

CJ McCollum scored 21 points in Portland's fifth straight loss. It was the first meeting of the season between the West rivals after Golden State took all four games last regular season and then swept the Blazers in the first round of the playoffs.

"In a game like tonight when you have Steph out, Draymond out, we have to understand that other guys are going to come in and be aggressive and try to take advantage of their opportunities," Lillard said.

After missing his first four 3-point tries, Thompson hit from deep in the final 30 seconds of the first half as the Warriors led 59-47 at the break.

Rockets 130, Pelicans 123

In Houston, Clint Capela scored a career-high 28 points and Houston Rockets beat the New Orleans Pelicans for their 10th straight victory.

The game was tied with about three minutes remaining after James Harden made two free throws. Those were the first of seven straight points by Harden that put Houston up 124-119 with 1:30 left.

Jrue Holiday then scored for New Orleans, but Harden responded with a 3-pointer. Harden also made two free throws to make it 129-121 with 34 seconds left.

Holiday had a season-high 37 points for the Pelicans. E'Twaun Moore scored career-high 36 points and made six of New Orleans' franchise-record 18 3-pointers.

"We're going to need nights like that from Clint to be consistent and be a beast like he did, blocking shots, dunking the basketball," Harden said. "And to close the game out he did a really, really good job. So progress, he's got to get better, but tonight was a good step for him."

Capela agreed with Harden's assessment.

"Of course it feels good and I'm happy tonight but I'm really trying to be consistent in what I'm doing," he said. "So I'm going to keep working and try to get better simply. It's just one game and there's going to be a lot of other ones, so just got to be ready for the other ones now."

"James running out of gas in the first half, and then his leg was hurting him and all that," coach Mike D'Antoni said. "But then at the end he just puts daggers in people."

After scoring 48 points in Houston's last game, Harden finished with 26 on Monday, but he tied a career-high with 17 assists, finding the 6-foot-10 Capela under the basket again and again.

"Harden and CP3 closed out the game, they are both great players," New Orleans coach Alvin Gentry said. "We had our opportunity, but couldn't quite get it done.

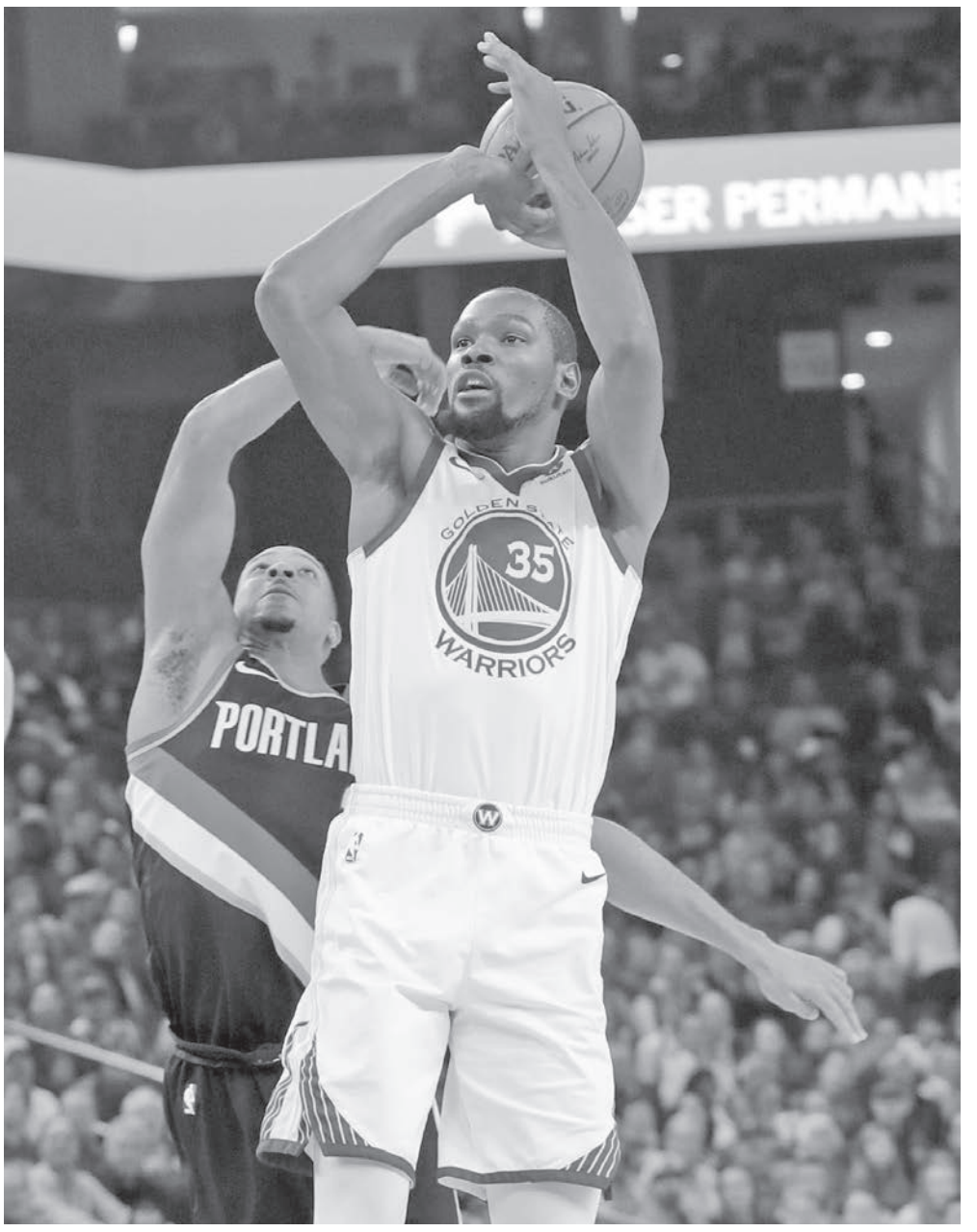
Bulls 108, Celtics 85

In Chicago, Nikola Mirotic scored 24 points, Bobby Portis added a career-high 23 and Chicago rolled to its third straight win.

The last-place Bulls built an 18-point lead in the second quarter against the Eastern Conference leaders. When Boston cut it to 12 in the fourth, Chicago pulled away for the runaway victory.

The Celtics played without star guard Kyrie Irving, who was sidelined by bruised left quadriceps.

Before Monday night, Mirotic and Portis had only made headlines together this season for the wrong reasons. Mirotic missed the first 23 games with facial fractures he suffered in a fight at practice with Portis.



AP

Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant (35) shoots as Portland Trail Blazers' CJ McCollum defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 11, 2017, in Oakland, Calif.

Clippers 96, Raptors 91

In Los Angeles, Montrezl Harrell scored 17 points, and the Clippers snapped the Raptors' six-game winning streak.

DeAndre Jordan had 14 points and 17 rebounds for the Clippers. Their backups outscored Toronto's reserves 50-17, led by Harrell and Lou Williams, who also had 17 points.

Milos Teodosic scored 12 points in his return after missing 22 games with a left foot injury. His 3-pointer with 40 seconds left extended the Clippers' lead to 91-87.

Jonas Valanciunas had 23 points and 15 rebounds, and Serge Ibaka added 17 points for the Raptors, who led by 13 points in the first half.

Hornets 116, Thunder 103

In Oklahoma City, Dwight Howard scored 23 points, leading Charlotte to the road win.

Kemba Walker had 19 points for the Hornets, who had lost seven of eight. Marvin Williams scored 18, and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist finished with 17 points.

It was Charlotte's second road win of the season in 12 tries.

Russell Westbrook had 30 points and seven assists and Paul George scored 20 points for the Thunder after missing the previous two games with a right calf contusion.

Charlotte shot 53 percent from the field against one of the league's best defensive teams. The Bobcats made 13 of 25 3-point attempts.

Heat 107, Grizzlies 82

In Memphis, Goran Dragic scored 19 points, leading the balanced Heat to the victory.

Miami shot 56.1 percent from the field and had seven players score in double figures in its second straight win. Josh Richardson had 17 points, and reserves Tyler Johnson and Bam Adebayo finished with 14 apiece.

Memphis lost for the 15th time in 16 games. Marc Gasol scored 19 points on 5-for-14 shooting and Andrew Harrison had 16.

Brady intercepted twice as Dolphins beat Pats

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—The Miami Dolphins wore their perfect season uniforms, and for at least one game in 2017, they looked the part.

Tom Brady was intercepted twice by Xavien Howard and held without a third-down conversion Monday night, and Miami snapped the New England Patriots' eight-game winning streak with a surprising 27-20 victory.

The Dolphins (6-7) were 11-point underdogs at home, but they kept the Patriots (10-3) from clinching their ninth consecutive AFC East title—at least for another week.

"It was a bad night," Brady said. "We've had a lot of good nights this year. This was a bad night."

Brady went 24 for 43 for 233 yards and one touchdown. Miami sacked him twice and hit him five times, and held the Patriots to 25 yards rushing. New England was 0 for 11 on third down.

"Our focus every game is to hit the quarterback as hard as we can and make him uncomfortable," defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh said. "I think we did a pretty good job of it."

The Dolphins' Jay Cutler threw for 263 yards and three scores, including two to Jarvis Landry. Kenyan Drake had 114 yards rushing and 79 receiving.

A Brady touchdown pass cut the deficit to 10 points with 13 minutes left, but the Patriots' next three possessions netted 5 yards. After a New England field goal, Miami sealed the victory by recovering an onside kick with 53 seconds to go.

"This gives us a boost," Cutler said. "Winning is what keeps you in this game. The locker room after a game, there's nothing like it."

The Dolphins wore their 1972 uniforms, and for the first time in four prime-time appearances this season, they rose to the occasion. Miami tried to turn the game into a laugher in the third quarter when Landry caught a touchdown pass and then set the ball down in the end zone and pumped it repeatedly— a reference to the Patriots' Deflategate scandal.

"It's all about taking the air out of the ball," Landry said.

Coach Adam Gase beat New England for the first time in four tries. His team snapped the Patriots' 14-game road winning streak, second-best ever behind San Francisco's 18 in a row from 1988-90.

Gase threw a lot of wrinkles at the Patriots early, with tight end MarQueis Gray and receivers Landry and Jakeem Grant taking turns lining up in the backfield.

"We used a lot of guys," Cutler said. "We were mixing it up. Adam was dialing it up well."

Cutler spun out of the grasp of blitzing safety Jordan Richards to throw a completion that kept Miami's first touchdown drive going.

The 5-foot-7 Grant made a leaping catch against Malcolm Butler for his first career touchdown reception, a 25-yarder.

Meanwhile, the Patriots sputtered without tight end Rob Gronkowski, who served a one-game suspension for a late hit to the head of an opponent.

"We got beat in all three areas of the game," coach Bill Belichick said.

Brady underthrew an open Brandin Cooks deep, and Howard closed for the interception and a 29-yard return to set up a touchdown. Howard also had two interceptions a week ago against Denver.

‘Crank’ eyes fight against Diego Sanchez

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Frank “The Crank” Camacho is hoping to challenge former Ultimate Fighting Championship lightweight title contender Diego “The Dream” Sanchez when he makes his return to the octagon next year.

Camacho is still savoring his first UFC win after the pride of the Marianas snatched a split decision victory over Australian Damien “Beatdown” Brown (17-11) in last month’s UFC 121: Werdum VS Tybura at the Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney, Australia.

It was Camacho’s 21st win after 26 fights with the 28-year-old fighter showing his striking power after earning 15 victories by way of knockout. Three of his losses were by KO with one each via submission and decision.

Sanchez (27-11, 8 KOs), who has seven wins by way of submission and 12 by decision, is the first winner of the reality show The Ultimate Fighter as he defeated Season 2 champion Joe Stevenson (33-16, 7 KOs). Four of Sanchez’s losses were by KOs, while the other seven were by decision. He has yet to lose by submission.

Camacho said UFC officials and the fight commission advised him not to accept any fights for one month due to the nature of his last bout against Brown. “It was a tough fight so the commission told me not to fight for the next 30 days.”

“I would love to fight next year and we’re trying to get Diego Sanchez. Possibly by late January or early February or maybe March at the latest. I don’t know where yet,” added Camacho in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

“We don’t know where would I be fighting next and we’re trying to see wherever they [UFC] could fit me in. They [UFC] just held a fight in China, but rumor has it that they are going to be back in the Philippines. I’m always open to wherever UFC wants me. I would love to fight in the Philippines. Filipino fight fans have always been a great crowd,” Camacho said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Frank “The Crank” Camacho, right, joins Brazilian Jiu-jitsu instructor Steven Roberto of Purebred Guam, center, and TrenchTech’s Cuki Alvarez in one of their training sessions in Guam last month.

The 28-year-old former CNMI junior golfer said he will be smarter and better prepared for his next fight unlike in the run up to his fight against Brown. “I’m excited for my next fight. I will be eating right and keeping my diet clean.”

“I won’t have no pressure of cutting so much weight since I plan to keep a weight of 175 lbs when I’m not fighting. I will be a lot faster, lighter, and stronger. I will be in so much better shape,” said Camacho.

Though he will go where UFC takes him, Camacho said it has been his ultimate dream to fight in the bright lights of Las Vegas, which is considered as the Mecca of fight events.

“It has always been Las Vegas. That’s where the biggest fights happen. It is the center of fighting, either MGM Grand or Mandalay Bay.”

Nadal, Muguruza win ITF top honors

LONDON (AP)—Rafael Nadal and Garbine Muguruza have won the International Tennis Federation’s player of the year awards.

At 31, Nadal becomes the oldest ITF men’s world champion after a season in which he won a 10th French Open and a third U.S. Open.

The Spaniard also became the oldest player to finish the year at No. 1 since the ATP rankings began in 1973.

Muguruza dropped only one set en route to her first Wimbledon title and finished the year at No. 2 behind Simona Halep.

‘’Becoming ITF world champion in such a competitive year is amazing for me,’’ said Muguruza, who is also Spanish. ‘’(Nadal) is a great role model for all of us, so it is a great moment for tennis in Spain.

Serena hints at return

Meanwhile, American Serena Williams dropped a large hint that she could soon be back on court competing when she posted an Instagram photo of a pair of dazzling gold and white tennis shoes.

Williams, who won her 23rd grand slam singles title at last year’s Australian Open before taking time out to have her first child, has entered next month’s tournament in Melbourne.

“Be excited. Be very excited...” the 36-year-old said in the post which attracted 135,000 likes in the space of an hour.

Williams gave birth to Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr. in September and was married to Alexis Ohanian last month.

Few female players have won grand slams after taking a break to start a family, although Kim Clijsters won the 2009 U.S. Open in her third tournament back after having a daughter.

Australians Evonne Goolagong and Margaret Court also managed it. Court’s 24 grand slam singles titles remains a record although only 11 of them were in the professional era.

MBA

From Page 28

also helped MBA’s cause, as they combined for 14 markers.

Dave and company controlled the win-or-go-home match right from the get-go, as they built an early twin-digit lead after the first quarter, 19-8. Park and Dave teamed up in MBA’s good start as they outgunned the entire SIS crew in the opening eight minutes of the game after firing 13 points. Eo registered the 6 other points of MBA with all of them coming from downtown.

MBA then stretched its lead to as much as 21, 29-8, as it held SIS scoreless in the first three minutes of the second quarter. The Geckos, behind A.J. Hudkins and Eric Kim, then picked up their scoring late in that period after going for a 13-2 windup to stay in the game, 21-31.

However, MBA widened the gap again in the third canto, as Eo waxed hot anew from the 3-point area, knocking down three triples. Dave, who was held to two field goals in the second frame, also regained his form in the penultimate quarter to hand MBA a 50-29 advantage, entering the final period.

The huge lead in the third quarter gave MBA enough cushion against the Geckos’ rally in the fourth. Hudkins and Kim finished with 13 points each on a losing effort for SIS.

With the victory, MBA set up a semis duel against No. 1 seed Mt. Carmel School, which gained an automatic Final Four berth after topping the regular season.

“It will be a tough assignment for us, but we will do our very best. We will treat our game against Mt. Carmel as a championship match, we will play all out,” said MBA coach Brendon Perez.

Incidentally, MBA and Mt. Carmel fought for the division title last season with the Knights prevailing, 50-39. Mt. Carmel coach Francis San Nicolas watched the MBA-SIS playoff game yesterday to scout their semis foe.

San Nicolas and Perez’s players will collide for the first finals berth tomorrow at 3:30pm with the 4-peat seeking Knights heavily favored in the semis tiff. Mt. Carmel defeated MBA twice in the regular season, 43-22, and 58-44.

The winner of the MBA-Mt. Carmel Final Four duel will battle the victor of the Grace Christian Academy-Agape Christian School showdown in the one-game finals this Friday at 4:30pm.

MBA 57— D. Lee 20, Eo 15, Park 7, Jeong 7, Hwang 4, Shin 2, Roh 2.

SIS 42 — Hudkins 15, E. Kim 15, M. Lee 8, Jang 2, Park 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-8, 31-21, 50-29, 57-42.

TEEN

From Page 28

in Hong Kong.

“We arrived early at the facility at 5:30pm (HK time) only to find out that we may need to leave because an athletics group had reserve the venue from 6pm to 8pm. Luckily, with the permission from the athletics group, we were allowed to stay but hidden at one end by the locker rooms. At first we were outside, dealing with the cold, trying to stay warm and waiting for our time to use the field, but after a half hour or so, the grounds keeper had spotted us sitting in the hallway and eventually allowed us to use the locker room. Coach Mita explained to the team that things like this happens, especially when you are the away team and we should do our best to be prepared, adjust to the situation, and stay focused,” team manager Ruselle Zapanta said in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune*.

The Teen Ayuyus persevered against the odds, holding their ground against Kitchee. Zapanta said the team played pressured defense against the home team and made solid tackles to prevent their opponents from scoring in the first half.

Then after blanking Kitchee in the first half, a more confident CNMI crew showed up in the second part of the game en route to winning their first training match.

“They got more possessions and created more opportunities to score. Eventually, the pressure from our midfield forced mistakes and the team was able to counter with Abragan slotting the ball passed the keeper,” Zapanta said.

The Teen Ayuyus hung on to the shaky lead despite the repeated attempts of Kitchee to score. This time it was the back defenders’ turn to foil Kitchee’s bid to hit the board and avert a loss against the visiting squad.

The close win against Kitchee was timely for the CNMI, as the latter was scheduled to face an equally tough Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong U18 last night for its second training match.

“It was a great result and gave positive vibes to the team,” said Zapanta, who thanked Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong and its coaches and staff for their assistance and warm accommodation.

NMI

From Page 28

twogames are all against tall teams, we need to at least get one of our next two games,” said team manager Elias Rangamar.

Team CNMI, on Monday, bowed to Fiji, 20-16, but bounced back with a 20-13 win over American Samoa before closing out Day 1 with an 18-7 setback against a tall Papua New Guinea side.

Samoa is still undefeated after five games as it followed up its opening day wins with victories over the Solomon Islands, 22-11 and the Cook Islands, 13-11. Samoa opened up its own gold medal campaign with a masterful 20-6 decision over Nauru then drubbed Vanuatu, 20-12, last Monday.

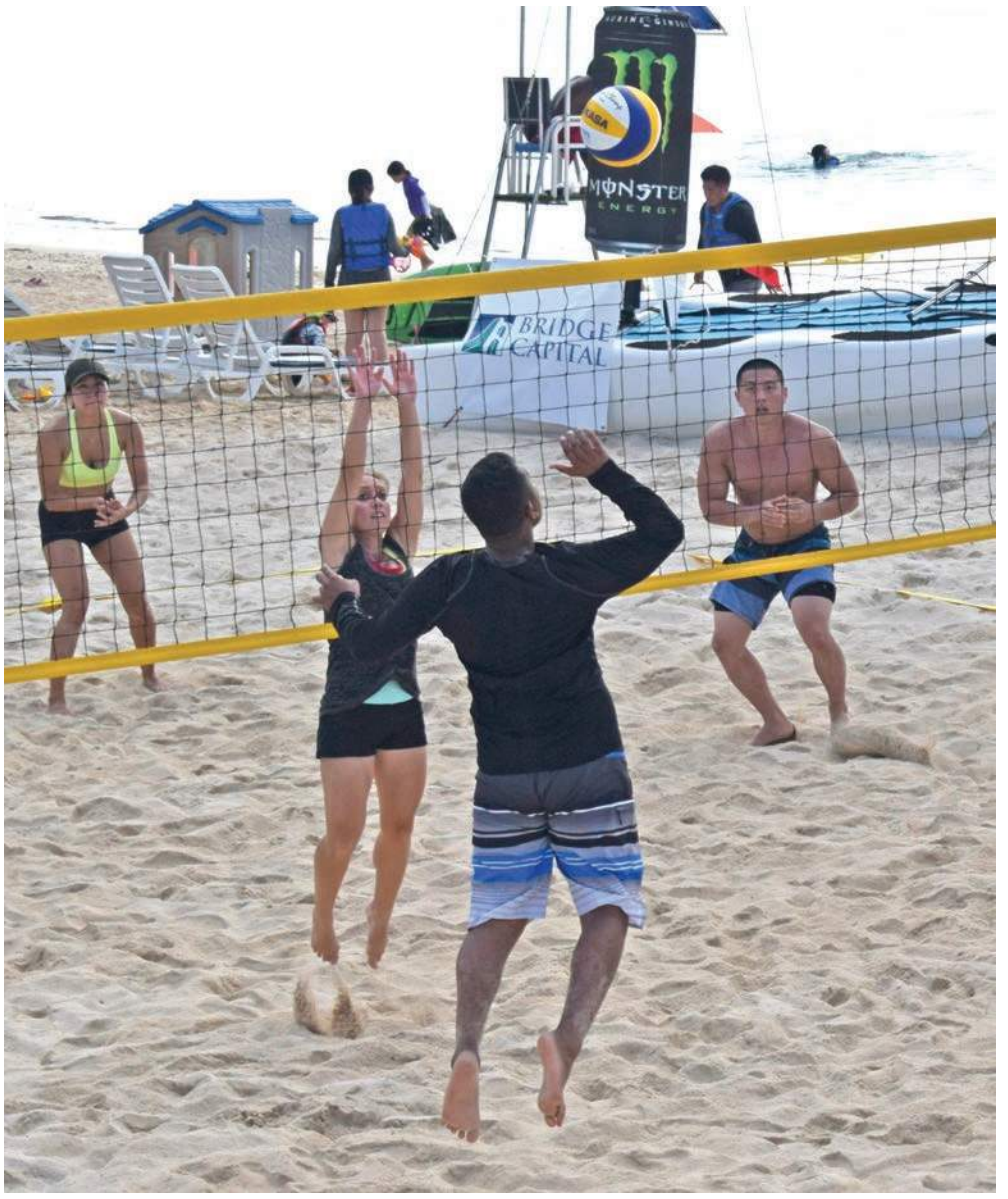
In other matches, Vanuatu escaped with an 11-10 win over the Cook Islands; American Samoa squeezed out a 10-6 decision over Fiji, which bounced back with a 20-11 pounding of Nauru; and the Cook Islands edged the Solomon Islands, 8-7.

PNG, another gold medal favorite, is also undefeated after four games. PNG, after beating the Cook Islands and the CNMI on Monday, breezed through American Samoa, 18-5 and then had another impressive win against Nauru, 15-7.

Meanwhile, New Caledonia is still on top of the medal tally with its 34 gold medals, 12 silver, and eight bronze. Papua New Guinea is ranked second with its 22-18-10 gold-silver-bronze haul, and is followed by Fiji (16-14-18), Samoa (15-10-5), and host Vanuatu (11-18-11).

2017 PIC 4-Person Coed Beach Volleyball Tournament

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



A player goes for a spike during the knockout phase of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan 4-Person Coed Beach Volleyball Tournament held last Saturday on the sand courts of the San Antonio hotel.

Tyce Mister, left, stops the ball, while his son Dylan looks on.

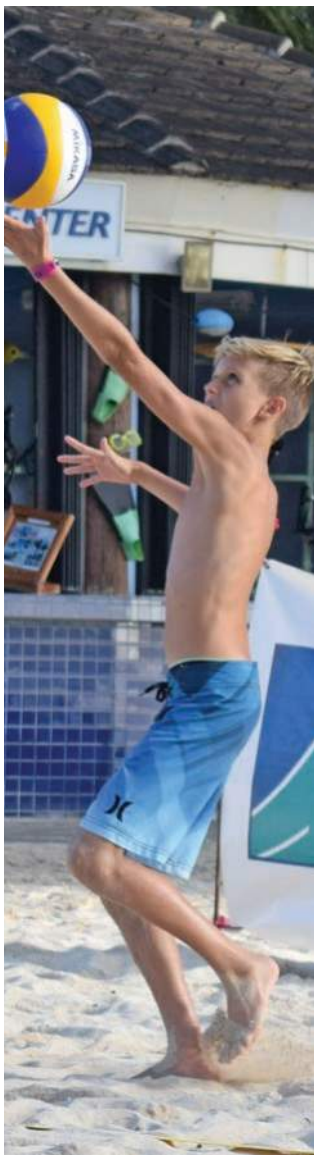
How I Set Your Mother's Toni Yamada prepares to hit the ball back to their opponents.

The North Shore Warriors' Alfredo Guevarra leaps for a return.

Denise Myers of the North Shore Warriors keeps the ball in play.

How I Set Your Mother's Kimo Olopai, left, and Terson Eina dive to save the ball.

How I Set Your Mother's Kimo Olopai, right, stops the ball, while teammate Billy Nakashima looks on.



Dylan Mister of Mister Fam prepares to serve in their game against CPR Certified.

Stanton joins Judge as Yankees' Towers of Power

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Durant leads short-handed Warriors past Portland

PAGE 25

Teen Ayuyus beat HK team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team left a good impression in its first training match after downing Kitchee Sports Club's youth squad, 1-0, last Monday night at the Mong Kok Stadium in Hong Kong.

Joshua Abragan delivered the goal for the Teen Ayuyus around the 10th minute of the second half, but credit half of it to the team's defense, as his shot came after their midfielders forced the host team to commit an error. The CNMI's midfield was manned by James Eramitanio, Anthony Fruit, and John Michael Rojas, while the other starters for the team were goalkeeper Christopher Aninzo, Ryan Relucio, Hark Galarion, Dai Podziewski, Thaiphi Austria, Louie Calayag, and Eun Syu Hahn. Sunjoon Tenorio, Jonathan Capayas, and Kirt Andon were the substitutes.

Coming into the game with little knowledge about their foes and dealing with the cold weather, the Teen Ayuyus leaned first on their defense to frustrate Kitchee SC, whose players are either selected to suit up for the Hong Kong national team or its men's squad that is competing in the Hong Kong Premier League. The club also has the Kitchee Soccer Academy, making the group one of the top youth squads

See TEEN on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team's Joshua Abragan, second left, celebrates with his teammates after scoring the goal that gave the Teen Ayuyus the win against Kitchee Sports Club last Monday night at the Mong Kok Stadium in Hong Kong.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas Baptist Academy's Jeong Min Son, third left, loses the ball against the defense of three Saipan International School players during the second quarter of their playoff game in the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MBA completes semis cast

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Baptist Academy took the last semis seat in the boys high school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League after downing Saipan International School in their playoff game, 57-42, yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Dave Lee and Stephen Eo scored in double figures to lift MBA to the easy win and eliminate SIS. Dave had a game-high 20 points, while Eo contributed 15 markers. Min Su Park and Junsik Kim

See MBA on Page 26

NMI 3x3 team remains in contention

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Team CNMI kept its medal hopes alive after snatching two wins out of the three games its played in the 3x3 men's basketball event of the 10th Pacific Mini Games yesterday at Korman Stadium's Hall 2 in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

The Commonwealth cagers narrowly defeated Nauru, 17-15, then banked on Jack Lizama's inside presence in completing a 16-8 win over host Vanuatu before suffering a 21-12 loss to top seed Samoa. Team CNMI now has an even 3-3 record and needs to win at least one of its last two games against the Cook Islands and the Solomon Islands today to secure a playoffs berth.

Lizama muscled his way inside against Vanuatu to finish with 8 points, while Douglas Schmidt added 5.

Against Samoa, the CNMI was down by only 2, 12-14, with still four minutes left in the game, but went cold down the stretch, allowing its opponent to escape with the win.

"We just could not hit our treys. We had a lot of open looks, but our shots did not fall. We will play the Solomon Islands next. Our last

See NMI on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Mike White, center, joins the CNMI men's 3x3 basketball team for a group photo during Day 2 of the competition in the 10th Pacific Mini Games at the Korman Stadium's Hall 2 in Port Vila, Vanuatu.